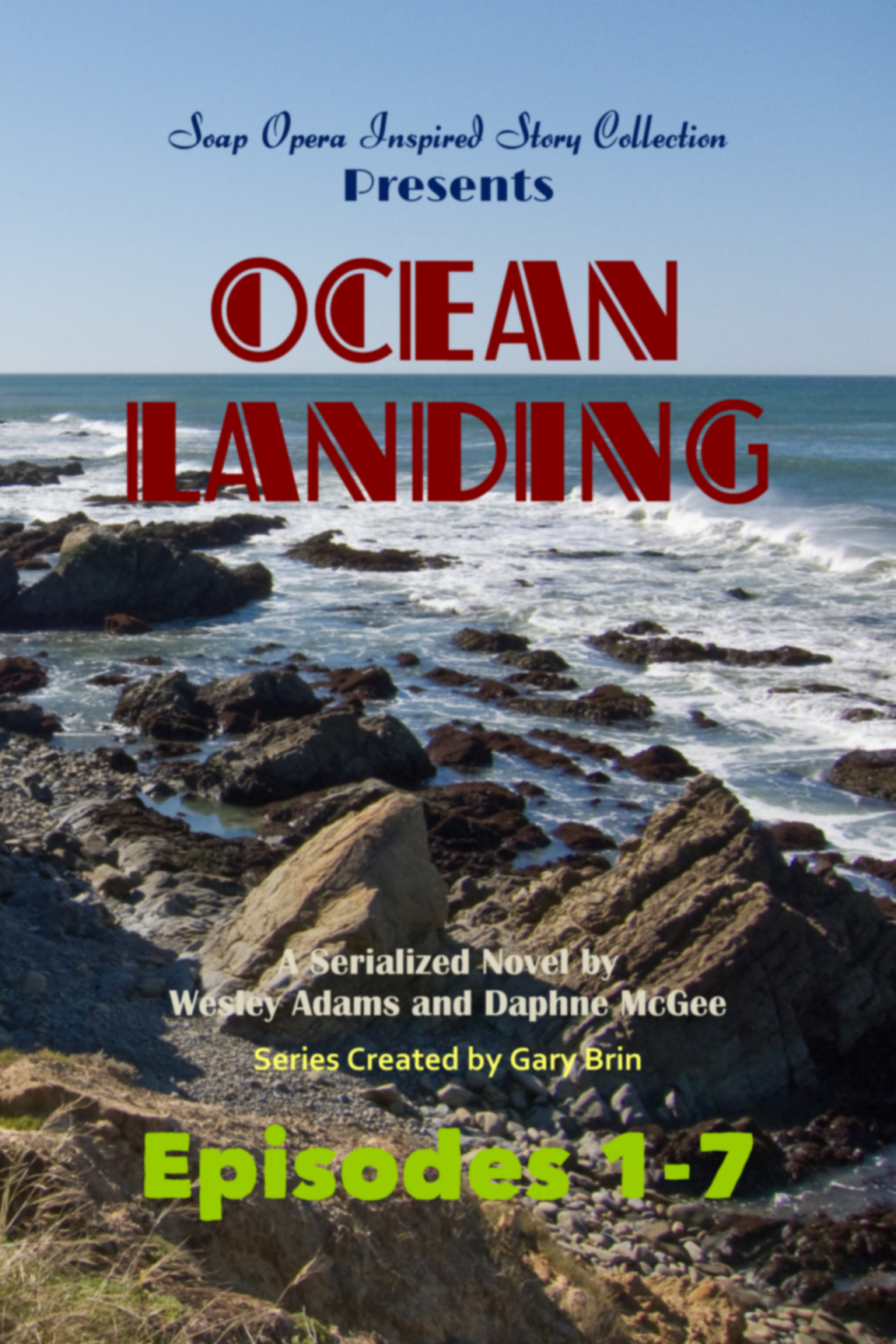
Soap Opera Inspired Story Collection
Presents
OCEAN
LANDING
A Serialized Novel by
Wesley Adams and Daphne McGee
Series Created by Gary Brin
Episodes 1-7

# OCEAN LANDING

# OCEAN LANDING

**A Serialized Novel by**
**Wesley Adams and Daphne McGee**

Book 5 of the Soap Opera Inspired Story Collection
Series Created by Gary Brin

## Episodes 1-7

*Standish Press*

The serialized story in this novel is fiction. Real persons, geographical locations, books, television shows, films, music, and specific events mentioned or which appears as part of the multi-character ensemble in this story were dramatized for entertainment purposes only and have no actual connection to fictional characters and created storylines in this book or reflects upon actual reality of things that may have happened previously or of which seems somewhat similar to real-life situations.

**Names of real people mentioned in this book are in bold letters.**

Select comments by fictional characters in this novel about historical figures, true crime cases, and, or pop culture icons are based on fact and additional information can be found online in reputable sites as well as numerous published books.

Several characters from *Glass Owl*, *Desperate Lives* and *Thomas Nix* appear in this story. *Glass Owl*, *Desperate Lives* and *Thomas Nix* are original publications from Standish Press and part of the Soap Opera Inspired Story Collection Series.

Cover photograph courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.
Cover photograph was digitally enhanced and visually altered for this edition.
Cover design and book layout © 2021 by Standish Press

FIRST EDITION

Copyright © 2021 by Standish Press

All rights reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced by any means whatsoever without written permission from the publisher.

For more information about reprint rights please visit
www.standishpress.com

ISBN—978-1-945510-04-5

MANUFACTURED IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Sometimes the person you'd like to be most of all is the last person you should ever want to admire.

---

Morals are more valuable than popularity.

# Contents


| | |
|---|---|
| Intro | 11 |
| **Prologue** | 13 |
| A Brief Look at the First Episode | 16 |
| **Episode 1 Ocean Landing** | 17 |
| A Brief Look at the Second Episode | 42 |
| **Episode 2 Larkspur Point** | 43 |
| A Brief Look at the Third Episode | 68 |
| **Episode 3 Deadly Playground** | 69 |
| A Brief Look at the Fourth Episode | 94 |
| **Episode 4 Sins of the Past** | 95 |
| A Brief Look at the Fifth Episode | 120 |
| **Episode 5 Painted Images** | 121 |
| A Brief Look at the Sixth Episode | 146 |
| **Episode 6 Darkness Falls** | 147 |
| A Brief Look at the Final Episode | 172 |
| **Episode 7 Master of the Game** | 173 |
| About the Series Creator | 188 |

# Intro

*Ocean Landing* was inspired by classic nighttime soap operas of the 1980s where the lives of select citizens always seemed in jeopardy because of some shattering event or other that became part of the main plot throughout the season or several seasons if need be. While the idea initially was to follow the usual storylines of long-ago popular soaps from decades previous—the reality of true crime interfered. As this book was being written the idea of a serial killer loose in a small town became the focus and then was melded into the serialized story. Some characters from *Glass Owl*, *Desperate Lives* and *Thomas Nix* were also added in order to connect existing unresolved plotlines from past titles that figure into the current story of a serial killer hiding in plain sight in a small picturesque seaside village.

This is a soap opera inspired episodic novel written specifically to continue similarly formatted themes from beloved daytime soap operas as well as memorable prime-time soap classics—but with mature adult storylines added. Nevertheless *Ocean Landing* was specifically written to resemble a filmed YouTube web series and though it occasionally imitates traditional classic soap operas to a certain extent—it was written

with the intention that it's playing to a visual audience and therefore will emulate a scripted format (without camera angle directions) rather than the usual storytelling methods displayed in popular full-length novels such as *Scruples* by Judith Krantz and *Ellis Island* by Fred Mustard Stewart. It should also be noted that each episode of this series were written in a brief span of 6-12 days or less and therefore shouldn't be confused with being great literature. The goal of this series of novels was to mimic episodes of modern-day soap operas or filmed YouTube web series dramas from independent film makers—by creating visual entertainment on a printed page—and not to create a literary masterpiece.

The storyline in *Ocean Landing* takes place approximately at the same time the frightening events in *Thomas Nix* occurred in a small town in Massachusetts just outside of the Boston area. Several characters from *Glass Owl*, *Desperate Lives* and *Thomas Nix* are featured in this book also as part of the present story.

Gary Brin
Series Creator

In an effort to have an accurate portrayal of the dialogue used for the *Soap Opera Inspired Story Collection Series* people were anonymously observed in shopping malls, schools, places of employment, and on public streets in order to capture a definitive portrayal of how people of various ages and cultures interacted and talked to each other when they thought no one was listening. While some select dialogue was exaggerated for dramatic purposes when needed—the manner and tone of which people were observed speaking to each other in casual and private conversations is accurate. Exact wording was not copied verbatim for the most part, but the way certain types of topics and conversations are addressed by characters in this serialized series is based on actual situations that were observed over a period of several dozen years.

# Prologue

**1**

**Two Years Before**

"Get in the fucking car already."

The man looks at his new bride and seems about to explode with rage as she continues looking at a corpse lying face down at the bottom of a ravine. Less than ten feet away she notices the raging surf from the Pacific Ocean continuing to splash water upon the dead woman. The bride turns away and faces her husband standing at the top of the hill. He signals to her and disappears from view. She climbs up the rocky hill looking back every few minutes as she sees the ocean starting to tug at the corpse lying in its path. She reaches where her husband is standing. He angrily grabs her as he looks at the rocks below.

**2**

Waves continue to build gradually as the corpse is sprayed relentlessly with water. The man turns to look at the woman.

"Do you want to get arrested for murder?"

She gives him an odd look and sighs.

"No."

She wrings her hands.

"I didn't kill her."

Without warning he hits her with his fist.

"The cops are probably on their way."

He shakes his head and begins laughing hysterically.

"Stupid bitch called the cops before I broke her damn neck. She probably told them what we made her do. Told them how I killed her boyfriend at Three Flags Motel and then cleaned out his bank account. Let's just get the hell out of here before anyone sees us leaving. We've got a long drive ahead of us."

He forces her into the front seat of the car.

"This never happened."

He angrily gets into the car and slams the door.

"We were never in Oregon."

He looks at his wife.

"Is that clear?"

She nods.

**3**

The police car slows down and an officer steps out. He sighs loudly and looks around nervously. He runs his fingers through his hair as he slowly walks toward the broken guardrail a few feet away. He stops and looks back at his patrol car as he hears another car pulling up. He smiles as he sees his brother stepping out of the patrol car. He turns to look at the guardrail again and then notices a red rental car at the bottom of the treacherous-looking ravine. Huge waves lap at the edges of the rental car. As his brother approaches they face each other.

"Did she call back?"

The officer shakes his head.

"No."

He sighs loudly.

"She said they were traveling along the coast."

He notices something lodged between several rocks.

"I think we need to call the coroner."

They look at each other.

**4**

The reporter watches as the two police officers come toward her. She glances at the cameraman standing nearby.

"Did the victim finger her killer?"

She watches the reaction of both officers.

"No."

He sighs.

"No viable suspects at this time."

He watches as the coroner's van drives away.

"How was the victim murdered?"

"No comment."

"Was she raped?"

"No comment."

Both officers walk away without saying another word as the reporter seems somewhat upset as she continues to stand there curiously looking toward the broken guardrail nearby.

**5**

The couple drives along the Pacific coast and they look at each other every few seconds as live streaming news blare from the computer lying on the woman's lap. As she looks at her husband nervously he shoots her an angry look. He shakes his fist at her and warns her if she cannot control herself what happened to the couple will be her fate as well. Seeing her shocked look he begins laughing and threatens her yet again with death.

## A Brief Look at the First Episode

A small seaside town on the California coast provides the perfect backdrop for a simple life away from the big city. But looks can be deceiving when it comes to what appears perfect when secrets from the past begin unraveling the lives of its townspeople.

## Episode 1
# Ocean Landing

### 1
### Present Day

"Does your wife know about us?"

Carrie Woods glances at Tyler Hernandez slyly.

"Does she care?"

Tyler laughs as he watches Carrie's fingers glide across the expanse of his stiff penis. He pulls her toward him and grins.

"We have an open marriage."

Carrie reacts.

"That doesn't sound like Gail."

Tyler rolls his eyes.

"I haven't told her yet."

They kiss passionately for a few seconds.

"You bad boys never change."

Tyler smirks.

"Got a problem with that?"

Carrie watches as Tyler moves into position between her legs. She grins broadly as he slips his finger into her vagina.

"I don't have a problem with you—but what about Gail?"

Tyler looks at Carrie curiously.

"What about her?"

He kisses Carrie several times.

"I'm who I am. Why should I change?"

He laughs.

"I married her on a dare."

He grins slyly.

"Is it my fault she's lousy in bed?"

Carrie moans as Tyler penetrates her seconds later. She runs her fingers through his hair and kisses him several times as he pins her under his body. She kisses him again and grins.

"Is that how you really feel about my cousin?"

Tyler rolls his eyes.

"Uh-huh. Want to make something of it?"

Carrie shakes her head.

**2**

Carter Benning looks up from the resume he's reading and faces Jill Edmondson. His demeanor seems somewhat rigid.

"Your resume is a bit limited."

Jill reacts.

"Like I told you before I just finished college."

She wrings her hands.

"But I'm eager to learn as I grow."

Carter looks at Jill curiously.

"Normally I don't take chances but you seem willing."

Jill smiles broadly.

"I am."

They look at each other.

"Be here tomorrow at eight."

Jill sighs loudly.

"Thank you."

She stands up and faces Carter again.

"I'll work really hard."

Carter nods and watches Jill walk to the door.

## 3

"This can't be happening again."

Louise Wong looks at the computer screen in front of her and at her assistant Marlene Alderson. Marlene shrugs.

"I noticed it this morning when I started to process the receipts from yesterday. It looks identical—same numbers."

Louise turns away from the computer.

"It must be someone we know."

She sighs.

"This has to stop."

Marlene looks at her cell phone.

"My brother's college buddy works for a firm in Los Angeles that deals with hackers every day. He's really good."

Louise walks toward the window.

"How expensive is he?"

Marlene shrugs.

"I could ask."

Louise looks out the window.

"OK."

Marlene reaches for her cell phone.

## 4

"This room looks like a shrine."

Larisa Lopez glances at Lana Collins oddly and shakes her head several times as she looks at seven huge, framed, glossy photographs of **Lana Turner** adorning the walls of a tiny room. Lana smiles broadly as she walks toward one of the oversized photographs. She stares at the photograph for a few seconds unaware of Larisa's reaction. She turns to face the other photographs and repeats her awestruck behavior. She points proudly toward the largest of the photographs and grins.

"I was named after her."

Larisa makes a gesture with her hand.

"I was named after my aunt but you don't see me devoting an entire room with photographs of her like you've done with this actress. It's seriously creepy and weird—like really creepy."

Lana seems insulted and shrugs.

"There's nothing creepy about this room."

Larisa walks to the door.

"Keep telling yourself that."

Lana turns to look at the photographs again.

**5**

"Do you think she's lying?"

Alan Wong turns to face his best friend Todd Zimmer.

"I don't know."

He looks back at the entrance of a high school parking lot and runs his fingers through his hair. He seems visibly upset.

"She said she was on the pill. Said us having sex in the backseat of her father's car two months ago was her way of showing me she was no longer a girl. Then today she told me."

He clenches his fist.

"I'm so fucked."

Alan looks at his watch.

"What are you going to do?"

Todd shrugs.

"No idea whatsoever."

Alan looks at his watch again and at the street.

"I'll talk to you later."

At that moment Todd's girlfriend Serena Jackson slowly pulls up alongside on the sidewalk. She seems nervous.

**6**

Jesse Malinger rolls his eyes as he turns to look at the narrow street up ahead. His mother pulls the car to a stop.

"We've arrived at our new home."

Jesse turns away in disgust. Carol Malinger notices.

"It's not that bad—much better than San Diego."

"Says who?"

Carol ignores her son's rudeness and steps out of the car. She looks up at the small house directly in front of her.

"It looks just like the brochure."

Jesse steps out of the car and makes a barfing gesture with his finger. He looks up at the tiny house and grimaces.

"This blows chunks."

Carol faces her son and sighs.

"It's Ocean Landing or juvenile hall."

She seems upset.

"You decide."

Jesse looks back at the car.

"I'll be dead in a week from boredom."

He sighs loudly.

"My life is *so* over."

Carol watches as her teenage son walks toward the entrance of their new home. She looks up toward the sky.

**7**

"Are you sure no one saw me?"

Astrid Thomas turns to face Ben Allington.

"No one saw you."

They look toward the deserted beach again as they pull out of the parking lot. Astrid pulls out her cell phone and sighs.

"There was no one anywhere around."

She reaches out to stroke Ben's hand gently.

"What's the big deal anyway?"

She looks at her cell phone.

"It's not like you did anything wrong Benji."

Ben sighs loudly.

"I thought I told you not to call me Benji anymore."

Astrid leans over to kiss Ben.

"You'll always be Benji to me—*my* Benji."

Ben recoils and sighs loudly.

"You promised."

He turns to look at Astrid.

"Benji is a little boy's name—I'm almost an adult."

Astrid leans over to kiss Ben again.

"That reminds me."

Ben grins as Astrid begins to tousle his hair and lets her other hand slide down toward his belt buckle. He grins.

## 8

Gail Hernandez places a bouquet of roses on a grave and steps back. She wipes a tear from her eye and looks at her mother. They hug briefly and look down at the roses covering the headstone. Maureen O'Bannon leans down to brush away a few leaves covering the plain-looking brass marker. She sighs.

"He would've been twenty-four next week."

Gail nods.

"I still can't believe it."

She wipes another tear from her eye.

"It still feels like yesterday."

They hug again.

"If only he hadn't gotten into that truck."

Maureen looks at the grave again before turning to face her car parked a few yards away. Gail follows her mother.

"How's Andrew?"

Maureen stops.

"I talked to him yesterday."

She pushes a wisp of hair out of her face.

"He likes Boston."

Gail grabs her mother by the arm.

"Is he ever coming back?"

Maureen shakes her head and sighs.

"I don't think so."

They look at each other.

"Losing his twin brother changed him."

They reach the parked car.

## 9

Laura Stryker looks up at the imposing building for a few seconds then slowly walks toward the entrance. She stops briefly to look at several large potted plants on the wooden steps.

"I've been away so long."

She seems worried.

"Time heals all wounds."

She nervously looks back at the street.

## 10

"Is that all you can say?"

Tyler looks at Carrie and laughs.

"What do you want me to say?"

Carrie seems upset.

"I want to know you care."

Tyler rolls his eyes.

"Of course I care."

Carrie walks over and slowly slides her arms around Tyler's waist. She tugs at the buttons on his Levi's. He smirks slyly.

"I've really got to go."

He kisses her.

"You and I are quite the pair."

Carrie pulls Tyler closer to her and kisses him.

"I really like you Tyler."

She seems upset.

"I just wish you weren't married to my cousin."

Tyler laughs loudly.

"Some things couldn't be helped."

Tyler kisses Carrie.

"How about we get together tomorrow?"

Carrie nods.

"What about tonight?"

Tyler grins.

"I'll see what I can do."

Carrie notices the outline of Tyler's penis under his jeans.

"You penis has a hold over me."

Tyler smirks.

"Tell me something I don't know."

He kisses her again and leaves. As the door closes Carrie turns to look at the narrow hallway leading to her bedroom.

**11**

Larisa shuts off her cell phone and looks at Lana. She seems upset. She stands by the kitchen door for a few seconds in shock. Larisa gestures with her hand several seconds later.

"He did it."

Lana seems confused.

"What are you talking about?"

Larisa looks at the cell phone in her hand.

"My father left my mother."

Lana seems shocked.

"I thought they were happy?"

Larisa shrugs.

"Mom said he called from Seattle an hour ago and told her he had met someone—said he wanted a quickie divorce."

Lana watches as Larisa clenches her fists.

"Is there anything I can do?"

Larisa turns to face Lana.

"No—my father just ruined my mother's life."

She leans against the marble counter.

"This just can't be happening."

She looks at her cell phone again.

"What is my mother supposed to do now? What about how she feels? How can anyone be such a cold bastard?"

Larisa sighs loudly.

"She devoted her life to him."

She takes a deep breath. Lana walks over to where Larisa is standing. She seems unsure of what to do. Larisa faces her.

"I hate him. I really do."

She silently walks to the door and stops.

"I think I'm gonna call and tell him exactly what I think of his behavior—lay into him about the kind of man he's become."

Lana nods in agreement.

## 12
## Boston

Andrew Latimer glances at the message on his cell phone and looks away. He shuts the cell phone off and leans back in his chair with a dejected look on his face. He faces the window.

"I can't. I just can't."

He notices his cell phone flashing again.

## 13

"No one is safe in this world."

Colin Baxter looks down at a partially decomposed body lying in a ditch several feet away on a steep cliff overlooking the Pacific Ocean. He turns away in disgust as he faces Simon Andrews. They watch as a coroner and his assistant make their way down the steep incline toward the body. Colin sighs.

"This is the sixth one this year so far."

Simon nods.

"Same deal like the rest. No ID."

They look toward the highway about ten feet away.

"Think it could be someone local?"

Colin shrugs.

"I hope not. But you never really know."

They watch as the corpse is loaded into a body bag.

"Poor woman never had a fighting chance."

Colin wipes sweat from his brow.

"Hope we can get something from the fingerprints."

Simon watches as the body bag is carried up to the road.

"Terrible how some people behave."

Colin clenches his fists.

"Not enough justice for people like that."

They watch as the body bag is loaded into the back of the coroner's van. From a few yards away they notice a few overly curious onlookers stopping to see what the big deal is about.

## 14

"I don't like sharing you with the likes of Carrie Woods."

Tyler laughs as Andrea Byron pulls him toward her and they kiss passionately. She tousles his hair as he grins slyly.

"Not much you can do about it."

She seems upset as she pulls away.

"I just don't like sharing your penis. It's wrong."

He laughs loudly.

"You don't own me Andrea. You know I'm not going to change. I've always been this way. I like playing the field."

He pulls her toward him again.

"I can't help myself."

He kisses her.

"What's the big deal anyway?"

He looks down at his swelling erection.

"We've got a good thing going between us. Don't ruin it with petty jealousy. Not exactly a good scene to play out."

Andrea looks down at Tyler's erection.

"Carrie is a whore. I hate her."

Tyler rolls his eyes.

"What does that make you for sleeping with a married man? Especially knowing I got married on your advice."

Andrea tousles Tyler's hair again.

"Why can't I say no to you?"

He laughs as they both look at his erection.

"I can think of one reason."

He kisses her again and gives her an odd look.

"I don't want to hear another bad word about Carrie."

Andrea seems upset.

"But you promised me?"

Tyler laughs.

"I lied."

He looks at his erection again.

"I'm a liar."

They look at each other for a few seconds.

"I'm dead serious about Carrie. Not another word."

Andrea nods in agreement.

## 15

Enrique Lopez watches Laura walk around the lobby for a few seconds before she turns to face him. She rubs her eyes.

"It's as if it was just yesterday."

Enrique looks at Laura curiously from behind the front desk. Laura slowly walks toward Enrique and sighs loudly.

"I never thought this place would open again."

"Excuse me?"

Laura turns to face Enrique.

"My mother was forced to close down this place and leave town. It broke her heart. But she had no choice after what happened that summer—the accident destroyed our lives."

Enrique seems confused.

"You must be Laura Stryker."

Laura nods.

"Twenty years."

He glances at the spiral staircase.

"What exactly happened?"

Laura turns to face Enrique.

"There was an accident. This retired couple came for a vacation. Then everything went wrong—horribly wrong."

She seems upset as she turns away.

"He fell in his room and his wife blamed my mother for the accident. Threatened to sue so my mother settled. Then she closed the inn and we left town. We had no choice but to move in with my aunt and uncle in Solvang. It was less than perfect."

Enrique walks over to Laura.

"My parents bought this place about eleven years ago. I was really young at the time. They added another wing to the building—as well as a backyard area for summer parties."

Laura looks at the lobby again.

"It's perfect."

Enrique nods.

**16**

"Baxter and Andrews found another body?"

Kyle Garland leans back in his chair as he talks on his cell phone. His eyes widen as he listens. He sits up suddenly.

"This is the sixth one so far this year—most definitely the work of a serial killer. Cause for alarm no doubt. Terrible."

He stands up.

"Keep me updated."

He shuts off the cell phone and looks at Greg Williams sitting at his desk at the far end of the room. He shrugs.

"It's just a matter of time."

"What's just a matter of time?"

He looks at Greg.

"Before whoever is killing people begin killing more than just random teenage hitchhikers or truck stop prostitutes."

He runs his fingers through his hair.

"I think it's time I have a talk with Colin Baxter."

"Are you sure that's a good idea given your history?"

"We went to high school together. Played football for two years—I qualify that as us being close friends. No grudges."

Greg makes a gesture with his hand.

**17**

Colin looks at the photographs in front of him and seems about to gag. Simon stifles a smirk as he notices Colin's reaction to the ghastly images. He taps Colin lightly on the shoulder.

"Didn't you say you wanted to be a coroner?"

He smirks broadly.

"Said that was your true calling initially?"

Colin looks at Simon disdainfully.

"How about I take you outside?"

Simon rolls his eyes.

"Should we bring the photos too?"

Colin closes the folder and faces Simon again.

"I *did* want to be a coroner when I was in college. That was then and this is now. Rotting bodies are not my thing. Ugh."

"That and the fact you flunked out."

Colin seems upset.

"That was a long time ago."

"Was it?"

They look at each other and then Colin glances at the window. He slowly walks over and pulls the old-fashioned glass pane windows open. He faces Simon once again and sighs.

"I think we need to face reality about this serial killer situation. This is no longer just something that's been happening on the outskirts of Ocean Landing. Some nut is on the loose."

He grimaces as he paces back and forth.

**18**

Andrea watches as Tyler drives away. Seconds later she grabs her cell phone and begins dialing. She seems pleased.

"I'll make Carrie sorry she ever made a move on Tyler after I warned her he was mine. She'll pay. Then I'll deal with Gail."

She looks at herself in a mirror and grins.

**19**

"Enrique and I are here for you."

Larisa hugs her mother warmly and turns to look at the door to a small cozy cottage. Marta Lopez stands up and walks to the front door. She stops and wipes a tear from her eye.

"Enrique doesn't know yet."
"Where is he?"
Marta wipes another tear from her eye.
"He's working the front desk."
Larisa walks over to her mother.
"I'll tell him."
Marta seems about to cry.

**20**

Astrid strokes Ben's cheek gently and kisses him. They kiss passionately for a few seconds as his fingers fumbles with the steering wheel. He pulls away suddenly and sighs loudly.
"No more kissing while I'm driving."
Astrid slides her fingers across his legs.
"What about other things?"
Ben laughs.
"Are you trying to cause an accident?"
Astrid pulls her hand away.
"Last week you liked it."
Ben smirks.
"Last week we were parked at Rocky Cove when you took it upon yourself to get really, really friendly with my dick."
Astrid reaches out to stroke Ben's cheek again.
"How about we make a return visit?"
"Not happening today."
She seems upset and turns to look out the window.
"You're just lucky you're so cute."
Ben grins broadly and slyly gestures with his fingers.
"I promise I'll make it up to you tomorrow."
Astrid faces Ben again.

**21**

"I think you know why I'm here."
Colin looks up to see Kyle standing in the doorway.

"Got nothing for you—slim pickings."

Kyle closes the door behind him.

"How long are you going to play this game?"

Colin leans back in his chair and shrugs.

"I know as much as you do."

Kyle glances over at where Simon is sitting.

"I think not."

Colin and Simon look at each other.

"Six is not a good number."

Kyle glances at Simon and a deputy sitting in a chair by his desk. David Kipling turns away when Kyle focuses his attention on him. Kyle notices and turns to face Colin again. He shrugs.

"I'll find out with or without your help."

He turns around and stops.

"I always do."

He leaves. As the door closes behind Kyle, Colin and Simon look at each other nervously. Colin rolls his eyes.

"He's more trouble than he's worth."

Simon laughs.

"Seems to me someone still has a few issues with their former college roommate—maybe it's time to let the past go."

Colin glares at Simon.

"If I want your opinion I'll ask."

Simon makes a lewd gesture with his finger.

"Is that before or after you and Kyle beat the crap out of each other—most likely in the parking lot of Gerald's Bar."

Colin clenches his fist.

"Kyle Garland disrespected me with my girlfriend. That bastard slept with her right after we got engaged. He knew how I felt about Jean but he still made a move on her anyway."

"Seems to me he did you a favor—from what you said it didn't take much for Kyle Garland to seduce your girlfriend."

Colin glares at Simon again.

"I loved her."

"But did she love you?"

Colin seems annoyed and stands up.

## 22

A young woman walks along a busy highway clutching a backpack in one hand and a bottle of water in the other. From across a deserted parking lot about thirty feet away someone watches her as they tap on a steering wheel with their finger.

**Two Days Later**

## 23

Sounds of laughter echo as Tyler and Carrie intensify their lovemaking. They finally part after a few minutes and look at each other. Tyler leers at Carrie. At that moment Carrie's cell phone begins to ring. She seems annoyed as she glances at it for a few seconds. Tyler looks at Carrie curiously and sighs loudly.

"Aren't you going to answer it?"

Carrie shrugs.

"It's only Andrea. Probably wants a favor."

Tyler seems upset.

"I thought you hated Andrea?"

Carrie rolls her eyes.

"I don't hate her. I just don't like how she uses people."

Tyler sits up in bed and sighs.

"I could talk to her?"

"I'll handle it."

She climbs out of bed and grins.

"I think she's been seeing someone on the sly."

Tyler reacts.

"I thought she was happy with Ronald?"

Carrie rolls her eyes in dismay.

"That's how she plays it. But he's a dud in bed from what she said. Last year she told me she hooked up with Father William—said he was really something else in the sack—wild."

Tyler seems about to laugh.

"She slept with a priest?"

Carrie gives Tyler a strange look.

"He's been quite the man about town."

Tyler laughs.

"Who knew?"

Carrie makes a lewd gesture with her finger.

"Father William wasn't her only conquest either."

She sighs loudly.

"She also played house with Juan Lopez."

"Isn't he like forty-eight or so?"

Carrie shakes her head.

"Uh-huh."

She winks slyly.

"His wife never found out. Then there was Kyle Garland from the newspaper. She said he was really into kinky sex."

Carrie begins brushing her hair.

"I swear if she ever made a play for you."

Tyler seems upset.

"She hasn't."

Carrie looks at herself in the mirror.

"It better stay that way."

She walks over to Tyler and shakes her fist at him.

"I already hate having to share you with Gail. I absolutely won't ever tolerate you dallying with the likes of Andrea."

Tyler smirks.

"Andrea and I are definitely not involved."

"Good."

Tyler seems nervous as his cell phone begins to ring. He picks it up and sees Andrea's name. He shuts it off quickly.

## 24

"We'll be right there."

Colin turns to face David and sighs loudly.

"We've got another murder."

He wrings his hands.

"Out along the bluffs by Larkspur Point—at the bottom of a ravine—this makes seven—most definitely a recent kill."

David follows Colin out the door.

## 25

Astrid watches as Ben places several containers with food and water in front of about twenty-five feral cats. As they circle him, he places the trays in a cleared area and watches as they begin eating. He grins as he faces Astrid. He leans over to pet some of the cats before walking away. He smiles broadly.

"Someone has to feed these cats."

Astrid rolls her eyes.

"Sooner or later someone will figure it out."

Ben seems terrified.

"No one can ever know."

He stops.

"You can never tell."

Astrid slides her arms around Ben's waist.

"I can be persuaded to remain silent."

Ben rolls his eyes.

"Is that so?"

Astrid glances at the cats eating hungrily.

"Uh-huh."

Ben pulls away from Astrid.

"You said you'd never tell anyone what I've been doing out here—never tell anyone I've been keeping these cats alive."

He runs his fingers through his hair.

"Everyone in town thinks I'm just a step away from jail. I prefer they think I'm trouble and a **James Dean** wannabe."

"Who's he?"

Ben looks at Astrid with a shocked look.

"Are you serious?"

Astrid shakes her head.

"No clue."

Ben pulls out his cell phone.

## 26

"Oh Father."

Father William grins slyly as he slowly undresses Marla Rodgers. He leads Marla toward her bed and sighs loudly.

"He approves."

Marla looks at a photo on the table.

"What about my vows?"

Father William laughs.

"What about them?"

Father William looks at his erection.

"This is what has to happen."

He winks.

"You want a baby don't you?"

Marla nods.

"I do—more than anything else."

Father William pulls Marla toward his naked body.

"I'm doing the Lord's work."

He laughs again.

"Obviously George can't do what's expected."

He kisses Marla several times.

"You've been trying for a year and still no baby."

He kisses her again.

"It's God's will."

He pushes her down on the bed.

## 27

Larisa looks at a picture of her father and angrily throws it against the wall of her bedroom. She seems upset as she walks over to the window and looks out. She shakes her head.

"There's no way to fix this mess now."

She clenches her fist angrily.

"No way whatsoever. It's much too late. I don't think I can ever forgive him for deserting us the way he did. Damn him."

She notices her mother outside at one of the pavilions in the backyard. She shrugs and heads to the door in a rush.

**28**

"This place blows chunks."

Jesse looks at the street ahead of him and seems to be deciding what to do next when he notices a teenage girl walking her dog at the corner. She turns to face him and waves. Sabrina McCord watches as Jesse walks toward her. He shuffles his feet as he approaches. The dog, a beagle, gives him a cold look.

"Hi. You must be new in town."

Jesse nods.

"Two days ago."

Sabrina glances at the beagle.

"My name is Sabrina McCord and this is my dog Duke."

Jesse glances at the dog for a few seconds.

"Jesse Malinger."

He shuffles his feet.

"I live up the street a bit."

Sabrina nods.

"How about we walk over to Bailey Park? It's about two blocks away. There's an old house at the far end that everyone says is haunted. It might be but I've never seen anything."

Jesse looks at his watch and nods.

**29**

"Who was that?"

Tyler shakes his head.

"It was nobody."

Carrie turns to look at Tyler suspiciously.

"Was that Natalie MacDonald?"

Tyler rolls his eyes.

"I'm not playing twenty questions with you."

Carrie grabs Tyler by the arm.

"She has an STD."

Tyler laughs.

"Natalie doesn't have an STD. You just don't like her."

Carrie lets go of Tyler's arm.

"Her boyfriend is a cage fighter from Fresno."

Tyler laughs loudly.

"Ask me if I care."

He grabs his Levi's and grins.

"You don't own me and if I want to sleep with the town slut, that's my deal. I'm not husband material by any means."

Carrie seems stung.

"But they don't care about you?"

Tyler smirks.

"I don't care about them either—it's just sex."

He pulls on a T-shirt.

"I'm a married man. That won't change anytime soon—so this fantasy you have about us getting together is DOA."

Carrie sits down next to Tyler.

"What if I become pregnant? What then?"

Tyler seems enraged.

"Don't you dare play that sick game with me Carrie—there is no us ever—baby or no baby. There's nothing more to say."

He walks to the door and faces her.

"I'll see you tomorrow."

She nods.

## 30

Father William grins broadly and helps Marla to her feet as she appears still in shock from their encounter. He winks.

"I guarantee you I'll impregnate you by week's end."

He laughs.

"Your prayers to be a mother will be heard."

Marla nods.

"I believe you speak the truth."

Father William smirks.

"I do. I do."

She watches as he pulls on his uniform and looks at his watch. He has a nervous look on his face. Marla notices but says nothing as she quickly slips on a pair of high-heeled shoes.

"I'll come by tomorrow at seven."

She nods and follows him to the door.

## 31

Colin looks as a covered body is loaded into the back of a coroner's van. He turns to face David. The coroner shuts the door and turns around. He seems a bit upset as he shrugs twice.

"This has to end."

Robert Widdemer turns to look at the bluffs.

"Thrown away like trash."

He sighs loudly.

"Was there any markings?"

Robert shakes his head.

"No."

He wipes sweat from his brow.

"But there was some sort of stain on her clothes."

Colin and David look at each other.

"What kind of stain?"

Robert shrugs.

"Not sure. But it definitely wasn't semen—sort of a light blue liquid that was splashed near one of the jacket cuffs."

Colin and David look at each other again.

"No ID either?"

Robert shakes his head.

## 32

"We've known each other for several months now but I don't recall you telling me you were from some dinky town."

Sandra King reaches out to playfully slap Scott Malone.

"Ocean Landing isn't a dinky town."

Scott grins.

"Is that so? We've just arrived and I feel like we're lost in some old painting. You actually lived here? Like really."

Sandra rolls her eyes.

"I want you to be on your best behavior."

Scott grins slyly.

"I'll make no such promise."

Sandra pulls up in front of a small picturesque inn.

"Not one bad word out of you."

She leans over to kiss Scott.

"This town was my home until a few years ago."

Scott looks toward the inn.

"Why aren't we staying with your folks?"

Sandra slides her fingers between Scott's legs.

"You want to have sex right?"

He nods several times.

"That's exactly why we're not staying with my folks."

He pulls Sandra toward him and hugs her.

"We've been through a lot together."

She nods.

"What happened in the Virgin Islands is in the past."

She sighs loudly.

"It was the worst nightmare anyone could face."

Scott reaches out to hug Sandra again.

"If it wasn't for what happened we'd never have the bond we do. Even Roland was happy to see me after I got back to New York. Said he couldn't care less but he did. He's a total softie."

Sandra kisses Scott.

"It was nice of him to give you a vacation."

Scott rolls his eyes and smirks.

"Uh-huh—Roland Parker is up to something. I know it without a doubt when it comes to that dude. He wants something from me and wants to make sure I'm in a really good mood when he springs his plans on me. Probably wants me to do a story on some actor with a drug problem hanging out at a rehab clinic in case he falls off the wagon and creates a public scandal."

Sandra jabs Scott playfully.

"I assume you'll set him straight if he tries to push you into doing stuff that is below the belt—especially after the wonderful story you gave him about what happened in St. Thomas."

They both laugh.

"You'd think that would be how Parker would think but he thinks in dollar signs only. Quality isn't on the top of his list."

Sandra jabs Scott again.

"I'd be happy to pay him a visit."

Scott wags his finger at Sandra and laughs.

**33**

"The Lord says it is right. He knows best."

Father William cups his hand under a young woman's breasts and sighs loudly. He kisses her several times.

"I just want to be a mother."

Melissa Kipling turns away from Father William.

"If David finds out he'll leave me."

Father William grins.

"He won't find out. The Lord tells me so. It is said."

Melissa looks at Father William curiously.

"I'm so confused."

Father William tugs at her clothing as he leads her toward a bed nearby. He looks around the bedroom and laughs.

"Today it begins."

Melissa looks at a recent photo of David and herself. She seems about to cry as Father Williams pulls her closer.

"I love him dearly. But we have issues."

Father William pushes her down on the bed.

"He'll thank you later."

He laughs as he moves into position between her legs. As Melissa sighs loudly Father William penetrates her and hungrily begins ramming her mercilessly. Loud moaning sounds echo throughout the small bedroom. On a carved wooden table nearby is a photograph of David and Melissa on their wedding day.

"The lord says it is so—so shall it be."

He laughs loudly as her moans echo throughout the small room. Melissa looks at Father William and begins to cry.

**34**

Larisa hugs Sandra warmly.

"I can't believe you're really here in Ocean Landing."

They look at each other for a few seconds.

"I said I'd come visit and I did."

Larisa turns her attention to face Scott.

"And who is this handsome devil?"

Scott grins slyly.

"Scott Malone."

Larisa looks at Scott curiously.

"Oh my God, *it's you*."

Larisa glances back and forth between Sandra and Scott.

"He was the *guy* with you on the *island*."

Sandra nods.

"Uh-huh."

Sandra watches as Larisa hugs Scott warmly. Larisa winks at him as they turn to face Sandra again. He grins broadly.

# TO BE CONTINUED

## A Brief Look at the Second Episode

An image of a perfect little California town begins to come apart with alarming frequency as the personal lives of several residents begin to create romantic chaos for those they know while mysterious deaths near Ocean Landing continues to pile up.

## Episode 2
# Larkspur Point

### 1

"What the hell is your problem?"

Daniel Williams looks at Jill Edmondson and sighs loudly as he taps on the steering wheel of his car. He seems annoyed.

"Fine—whatever—I'm done with you."

He looks at Jill one more time and drives off.

"How could you treat Danny like that?"

Jill turns around to face her best friend Nancy Baker.

"He just wants to fuck."

Nancy looks at Jill curiously.

"You never had a problem with that before today?"

Jill shrugs.

"It's different now. I'm looking for a guy who wants what I want. A serious relationship with a potential future built in. Danny is just not that guy. He still thinks he's in college. I'm over it."

Nancy rolls her eyes.

"You'll never find someone that hot."

She sighs loudly.

"He's every girl's dream."

Jill glances at her watch and shrugs.

"If you want him, he's yours."

Nancy seems upset.

"But he's?"

Jill walks over to her car.

"Not anymore."

They look at each other as Jill fumbles to find her keys.

"Besides, I'm too busy for a relationship anyway."

Nancy reacts oddly to Jill's statement.

**2**

"So, you won't get an abortion?"

Serena Jackson looks at Todd Zimmer and shakes her head. He runs his fingers through his hair in a frenzied panic.

"But my life will be ruined?"

He runs his fingers through his hair again.

"It was just sex."

Serena sighs loudly.

"You said you loved me."

Todd turns away from Serena.

"Every guy says that when he's having sex."

Serena seems about to cry.

"I feel so stupid."

Todd shrugs.

"I didn't think you took me seriously."

Serena spins around and slaps Todd angrily.

"How dare you."

Todd rubs his face.

"I'm sorry."

They look at each other.

"I'm not having an abortion."

Todd reacts.

"Is there anything I can say to change your mind?"

Serena glances at her stomach and seems worried as she faces him. He turns away. She wipes a tear from her eye.

"I just can't do it. I can't kill my baby."

Todd shakes his head.

"What about my life and what I want? I'm not ready to become a father. I'm a kid myself—I just want to have fun."

Serena seems upset and looks at Todd.

**3**

"Of course I'm aware."

Andrea Byron grins broadly as she faces Christopher Allington. He leans back in his chair. He smirks slyly.

"There's no turning back."

Andrea carelessly waves her hand.

"Just do it already."

She sighs.

"That bitch needs to learn a serious lesson."

She pulls out a wad of cash.

"This should do nicely."

Christopher leans forward and smirks.

"I agree."

He leans back in his chair.

"No regrets?"

Andrea rolls her eyes.

**4**

"Was it everything you wanted it to be?"

Tyler Hernandez pulls away from Cynthia Rodgers and grins broadly. She glances at his exposed penis and sighs.

"Uh-huh."

He leers at her.

"To think you actually considered becoming a nun?"

He laughs loudly.

"I guess that's not a possibility anymore."

He pulls her toward him.

"That ship has sailed."

He leers at her again and laughs.
"I need you on the pill immediately."
Cynthia nods.
"I'll go buy some from Safeway this afternoon."
Tyler kisses Cynthia.
"I promise I'll be faithful."
She shakes her head as he kisses her again.
"I'm not expecting you to stay true—I know your rep."
Tyler smirks slyly.
"I want to."
He looks down at his swelling erection.
"I'll try really hard."
Seconds later he aggressively penetrates her again.

## 5

"It's as if nothing has changed."

Sandra King turns to look at the ocean and sighs. Scott Malone wraps his arms around her as they look out towards an abandoned pier. Several parts of the structure appear to be crumbling badly. Seagulls dive into the ocean from the pier in large numbers as their loud cries seem to echo throughout.

"The pier was shut down after Pierre Vanet fell off and drowned. His family sued Ocean Landing. Pierre was a daredevil type of kid. He always seemed to know how to find trouble."

Scott grins.
"Sounds like he and I would've been friends."
Sandra turns to face Scott.
"Still thinking about what happened in the Virgin Islands?"
Scott shakes his head.
"I try not to."
Sandra leans against Scott.
"My doctor said my nightmares will eventually fade."
Scott hugs Sandra.
"He's right."
They look at each other.

"Give it time."

Sandra looks toward the pier again.

"It's so hard sometimes. It seems like just yesterday."

Scott shrugs.

"I know."

Sandra turns to face Scott.

## 6

"It's wrong."

Natalie MacDonald looks at her brother and grimaces as he shows her the lurid photographs from his folder. He grins.

"It's a way to make a really fast buck."

Warren MacDonald winks slyly.

"I'm really going to squeeze those snotty rich kids."

He closes the folder.

"Stupid bastards caused their own misery."

He walks to the door.

"I'll see you in a week."

He reaches for the doorknob.

"Once I get my money I'm moving to Los Angeles."

Natalie rolls her eyes.

"This is a dangerous game you're playing."

Warren makes a lewd gesture with his finger and smirks.

"What can rich kids do?"

He opens the door and stops.

"I'm not the one who trashed that park in Morro Bay. I'm just making a bad situation work for me. I keep quiet about what I saw last week and they avoid twenty months in a local jail."

He laughs.

"I'm just not a 9 to 5 type of dude."

He shakes his fist.

"I can't live that life. Ugh."

He closes the door behind him.

"Maybe I should call Cyril? See what he thinks?"

In a panic she grabs her cell phone but stops suddenly.

"But what if he calls the cops?"

She looks at the cell phone in her hand and sighs.

**7**

Melissa Kipling looks at Father William as he gets into his car and drives away. From across the street her neighbor looks at the scene and shakes her head a few times. Rebecca Martin turns away from the window and glances at her cell phone on a table a few feet away. She shakes her head again and seems upset.

"I wonder what that was about."

She sighs loudly.

"There's been talk about Father William."

Rebecca rolls her eyes.

"He's been quite friendly lately with Melissa Kipling."

She looks at the cell phone again and then walks outside toward a small tree-shaded patio where her friend is waiting.

**8**

"This is really beginning to look bad."

Colin Baxter turns to face Simon Andrews.

"You think?"

He glances over at David Kipling.

"Any word yet from Robert about the stiff?"

David shakes his head.

"He said he'd call when he had something for us."

He glances at Simon.

"Said not to expect much though—said whoever did this was quite thorough in not leaving much clues—mentioned that it seemed motivated by intense anger—rage if you must know."

Colin and Simon glance at each other.

"Robert always had a way with makings things seem even darker than they had to be—like he was on TV or something."

"Maybe we should get the press involved?"

Colin shoots David a harsh look.

"If I spill to Garland he'll turn this story into a tawdry soap opera in order to boost sales of his rag—terrible idea."

David looks at Colin with a confused look.

### 9

Laura Stryker jogs along a wooded path looking at a thick jumble of trees. She smiles broadly and stops. Her eyes fall on a lone oak tree hidden among an abandoned rose garden.

"It's like time stood still."

She begins jogging again a few minutes later. From the other side of the path a figure watches and seems angry.

## The Next Day

### 10

Enrique Lopez piles a stack of brochures on top of the front desk as his mother walks into the lobby from the garden outside. She seems upset. Marta Lopez sighs loudly and stops as she sees Enrique at the front desk. She shakes her head.

"I thought I told you to take the day off?"

He makes a gesture with his hand.

"I decided to work anyway."

Marta wags her finger at Enrique.

"But you promised Elizabeth?"

Enrique smirks.

"We're going out tonight."

He slowly walks over to where his mother is standing.

"Why don't you take Larisa up on her offer?"

"I don't think I'd fit into the spa scene."

Enrique smirks.

"I'm calling Larisa."

He quickly pulls out his cell phone and begins dialing.

"You said you'd go and you're going."

Marta seems upset and shrugs.

"I really don't feel like going."

Enrique ignores Marta and continues dialing.

**11**

Ward Brady smiles as he notices the outline of Ocean Landing coming into view. He grins broadly and glances at the folder lying on top of the dashboard. As he drives he continues to look at the lush scenery in front of him. He slows down.

"Looks like a postcard-perfect town without a doubt."

He looks at the folder again.

"But the house will need work."

He shrugs.

**12**

**New York City**

"I agree that there's absolutely nothing better than the California coast to get a few moments alone for yourself and Sandra—hope you're enjoying yourselves. Much deserved."

Roland Parker leans back in his chair and grins.

"How could you think such things?"

He rolls his eyes.

"Relax already—I'm just making sure you're OK."

He sighs.

"I almost lost you if you recall."

He waves his hand.

"It was touch and go for a moment."

Roland smirks.

"What happened in the Virgin Islands made you a household name after the fact—comes in handy no doubt."

He leans forward and blinks a few times.

"There's even a movie in the works."

He laughs.

"Hope it doesn't suck."

Roland stands up and walks to the window.

"When you get back I have a big story that needs looking into. Something to do with a little town called Castle Beach."

He nods several times.

## 13

"He's slick. I'll give him that."

Scott turns to look at Sandra with a huge grin on his face.

"He did his best to butter me up."

He laughs.

"Seems he already has a job lined up for me when we get back—some little town called Castle Beach—a mystery of sorts concerning several townspeople who went missing—*poof*."

Sandra looks at Scott oddly.

"I read something about that a week ago."

Sandra pulls Scott toward her.

"Apparently there was some sort of freak outbreak from what I read. There was also a rumor about body snatching."

Scott looks at Sandra and laughs.

"Anyone call **Robin Cook** yet?"

Sandra jabs Scott.

"This wasn't on FOX News which always plays on people's ignorance. This was on CBS. They did a whole week of the story but none of the local townsfolk wanted to spill their guts. They acted like they'd seen a bogeyman walking among them."

Scott rolls his eyes.

"Body snatching with today's reality—really—seems to me someone is channeling **William Wymark Jacobs** for a thrill."

Sandra jabs Scott again.

"Whatever."

They walk along the beach for a few seconds.

"Roland also confirmed there's a movie being filmed as we speak on what happened to us. Said Warner Brothers is releasing it at the end of the year—it could even get a few Oscar nods."

Sandra rolls her eyes mockingly.

"I wonder who they got to play you and me."

Scott laughs.

"I could ask Roland."

Sandra pretends to slap Scott.

"Don't you dare call him back—this is our time."

Scott looks at Sandra and grins. He hugs her warmly.

"I never thought I could be satisfied with just one woman."

He smirks broadly.

"But after what happened I saw the light."

"I did too."

Sandra reaches out to kiss Scott.

"I played every man I met because I could."

She sighs loudly.

"But if it had never happened we wouldn't have found each other—wouldn't have come to appreciate our lives."

Scott grins as he hugs Sandra again.

"I guess that means you don't find me annoying?"

Sandra shrugs.

"Sometimes you can be such a pain."

"Do tell?"

Sandra kisses Scott once more.

"But I wouldn't have it any other way."

Scott pulls a strand of hair from Sandra's face and kisses her again. They kiss several more times and begin laughing.

## 14

"Your brother is OK—told me he's on his way back."

Cyril Spalding flexes his muscular arms proudly several times. Natalie seems nervous as she sits on a park bench.

"I can't believe my brother was so stupid."

Cyril grins as he pulls Natalie toward him.

"How about we talk about us for a moment?"

Natalie ignores Cyril. He notices.

"Your brother can handle himself. From what he said he got those chumps to pay up. They knew he would squeal."

He pulls Natalie closer.

"It's been four days."

Natalie glares at Cyril. He reacts.

"Four days since the last time we fucked."

Natalie stands up.

"I think we should see other people."

Cyril runs his fingers through his hair and sighs.

"But I thought you said?"

Natalie shrugs.

"It's just not working."

He seems upset.

"Is this about Andrea?"

He leans back on the bench.

"I was drunk that night. I thought I was fucking you."

Natalie seems annoyed at the comment.

"It's not about Andrea. It's me."

Cyril seems confused.

"Whatever."

He stands up and heads toward his jeep parked a few yards away. Natalie pulls out her cell phone and shrugs.

## 15

"She said that?"

Nancy nods as she looks at Daniel.

"Jill said she didn't want you anymore. Said you could do as you please—said her career was her main focus presently."

Daniel seems stung at the revelation.

"How could she be so cold?"

Nancy moves closer to Daniel and shrugs.

"I think she's making a huge mistake."

Daniel faces Nancy.

"I agree. I'm quite a catch in this stupid town."

He seems annoyed.

"I can have any girl I want."

Nancy nods.

"I wouldn't tell you no."

Daniel looks at Nancy curiously.
"You're OK with us fucking—no strings?"
Nancy touches Daniel's hand.
"I've always wondered."
He grins broadly.
"No time like the present."
He stands up.

## 16

Ward looks up at the inn as he shuts the door to his car and begins walking towards the entrance. He stops briefly.
"I think I'll like it here."
He stops again as he sees two women arguing.
"I guess I spoke too fast?"
He walks over to where Marta is standing as Larisa Lopez attempts to force her into the car. Ward raises his hand.
"Is everything all right?"
Ward faces Marta.
"Are you OK?"
Marta looks at Ward and then at Larisa.
"My daughter thinks a spa will help to relax me."
Ward smirks.
"What's wrong with that?"
Larisa looks at Ward curiously.
"Do I know you?"
Ward shakes his head.
"I just got into town a few minutes ago."
He looks at Marta again.
"I was about to book a room at the inn."
Marta glances at the inn.
"We have several."
Ward nods and looks at Larisa again.
"Are you sure everything is OK?"
Larisa nods.
"Everything is fine."

They watch as he walks toward the front entrance of the inn. Larisa smiles broadly for a few seconds. Marta notices.

"He's cute. So shoot me already."

Marta rolls her eyes.

**17**

Melissa slowly takes her blouse off as Father William leers at her. She seems aware as his eyes travel along her body. He hungrily slides his fingers along the top of her breasts and sighs loudly. He pushes her against the wall of his office and leans over to whisper in her ear. She seems shocked as he whispers lewd comments in her ear as he aggressively enters her. She moans loudly as the intensity of his lovemaking overwhelms her. He laughs as she cries out—begging him to take her completely.

**18**

Jill looks at the computer screen in front of her as Carter Benning enters the small office. She glances at him briefly.

"Has something happened?"

Carter looks at Jill curiously for a few seconds.

"This serial murder thing is heating up."

Jill looks away from the computer.

"Did another body turn up?"

He nods several times.

"Number nine as of ten minutes ago."

Jill seems upset and faces her computer again.

"Should I go ahead with my story?"

Carter shakes his head.

"Of course—absolutely—but maybe you should talk to Robert Widdemer within the hour. He'll have plenty to say."

Jill nods and watches as Carter slowly walks down the hallway at the far end of the office. She looks at the screen again and sighs loudly. On the screen several snippets of video is playing while images of several young women are displayed.

## 19

"Is a stroller a nice present?"

Todd looks at Alan Wong with disdain.

"Is that your best line?"

Alan grins.

"You have to admit it's funny."

Todd pretends to take a swing at Alan.

"I guess Serena is going to have your baby."

Todd shakes his fist at Alan.

"I'm fucked."

He sighs loudly.

"I'll end up working at some greasy diner."

Alan grins slyly.

"Or being a janitor at Landing High?"

Todd looks out the window of his car looking defeated.

"This isn't my fault."

He angrily clenches his fist.

"She said we were friends with benefits."

He shrugs.

"No strings."

Alan taps Todd on the shoulder.

"Girls lie."

Todd runs his fingers through his hair.

"This isn't fair."

He wipes sweat from his brow and sighs.

"She said she was on the pill."

Todd stares at himself in the rearview mirror for a few seconds. He turns back to face Alan. Alan wags his finger.

"One spill is all it takes."

Todd rolls his eyes.

"Thanks for the support dude."

Alan shakes his head.

"I warned you this would happen if you didn't wear a condom. I even offered you some of mine. But you refused."

Todd glares at Alan.

"Serena said she was on the pill."

Alan makes a lewd gesture with his finger.

"Like I said—girls lie."

He grins slyly.

"I think a white stroller is gender neutral—good for either a boy or a girl—maybe with a light pastel trim on the edge."

Todd slams his fist against Alan's chest.

"I warned you."

Alan reacts in shock.

**20**

"Ninth victim—first male though."

Robert Widdemer faces David and Simon.

"Lung punctured with some sort of sharp object. Possibly a steak knife—hard to say at the moment—wound is severely mangled. Seems our friendly serial killer stabbed the victim several times in the same area. This loser is certainly pissed."

He glances back at the covered body.

"Probably a teenage hitchhiker trying to escape a horrible life at home—found much worse by running away. Terrible."

Simon seems confused.

"Was the victim raped like the others?"

Robert shakes his head and sighs.

"No. But I found this in the corpse's pocket."

He picks up a photograph from the table nearby and shows it to David and Simon. They look at each other.

"Is it possible this is the killer?"

Robert shrugs and sighs loudly.

"Probably the girlfriend he left behind."

"This is definitely not going in the right direction."

Robert looks at the covered body again.

"Tell me about it."

Simon glances at the photograph.

## 21

The car rocks back and forth as a couple go at it in the backseat for a few minutes. Loud moans echo loudly as Nancy cries out with joy as Daniel enters her repeatedly. Nearly out of breath he finally pulls out and looks at her. He grins broadly.

"I hope I met your expectations."

He laughs.

"I was really horny."

Nancy looks down at her vagina and notices a thick swash of seminal fluid between her legs. Daniel smirks as he reaches for his boxer briefs nearby. He winks as he slips it on and sighs.

"Two weeks since I last got laid—a healthy young guy can get really needy if his girlfriend isn't putting out on a regular basis. Jill is just being selfish as far as I can see. It always has to be about her—never about me. Maybe it's best we're finished."

Nancy reaches out to stroke Daniel's cheek.

"I'm so sorry she treated you so badly."

She pulls him to her.

"I'll always be available whenever you need me."

Daniel grins broadly.

"Guess I didn't scare you off with being so aggressive."

Nancy shrugs.

"I like a guy who knows what he wants."

Nancy kisses Daniel lightly on the lips.

"You were absolutely wonderful."

She sighs.

"Jill's loss is my gain."

Daniel smirks as he pulls on his Levi's.

"I'll wear a condom next time."

Nancy nods.

## 22

Louise Wong smiles broadly as she sees Larisa and Marta coming toward her in the lobby. She walks over to them.

"I see you finally decided to take me up on my offer?"

Marta rolls her eyes.

"Larisa made me come."

Larisa and Louise look at each other.

"I had to use a cattle prod to get the job done."

Louise snaps her fingers.

"I know the feeling."

She leads Marta toward the hallway and pairs her up with one of her employees. She turns to face Larisa seconds later.

"I was planning to call you—might need your help with the books—it seems my latest accountant has sticky fingers."

Larisa looks at Louise curiously.

"Have you reported it?"

Louise shakes her head.

"Not yet."

Larisa follows Louise toward her office.

"Don't you think you should?"

Louise stops and faces Larisa.

"Maybe she had a reason for doing what she did?"

Larisa gestures with her hand.

"Maybe she did—but that doesn't make what did right nevertheless—a crime is a crime. It's probably not the first time she's done something like this—this could be a pattern."

Louise nods in agreement.

## 23

Jesse Malinger looks down at the bluffs facing the ocean and sighs loudly. He takes a step forward and stops suddenly.

"There has to be another way down."

He turns around to stare at the highway and seems annoyed as he looks at the expanse of land before him.

"Where the fuck is the road to the beach?"

He begins walking along the bluffs and catches sight of what looks like some clothing stuck to several rocks far below.

"Litter bugs—stupid fucking losers."

He looks again at the white scraps of clothing and realizes what he's looking at. He reacts and seems about to faint.

"Is that what I think it is?"

He looks around and seems nervous as he reaches for his cell phone and begins dialing. He looks back at the scene.

**24**

"How about we go hiking tomorrow?"

Sandra watches as Scott wipes the last remnants of ketchup from his lips. He turns to face her with an odd look.

"Is it safe?"

Sandra rolls her eyes.

"Of course it is. This isn't New York City."

Scott shakes his head.

"What about wild animals?"

Sandra reaches out to touch Scott's hand.

"Are you scared of a bunch of woodland creatures?"

Scott rolls his eyes.

"I can handle my own."

"We'll see."

Sandra grabs her cell phone and begins checking a weather app as Scott seems uneasy. She turns to face him.

"Tomorrow will be sunny—perfect day for hiking."

He sighs loudly and begins to tap his fingers on the table nervously as Sandra seems to notice but ignores his behavior.

**25**

"It's down there in the bushes."

Colin and Simon looks at where Jesse is pointing.

"It looks like a person."

Colin faces Jesse.

"What were you doing on the bluffs?"

Jesse nervously looks at Colin and then at Simon.

"I was looking for a way down to the beach."

Colin looks at the rocks again.

"The road is down a ways."

He sighs loudly.

"Who are you?"

Jesse shoves his hands into his jacket pockets.

"Jesse Malinger."

He rolls his eyes several times.

"My mom and I just moved here from San Diego. For the record I'm not thrilled—not at all—especially after today."

Colin seems annoyed at the comment.

"I see you're a regular wise guy."

Jesse smirks.

"Got a problem with that?"

Colin looks over at where Simon is standing.

"I guess this makes ten."

Jesse looks at Colin curiously.

"Ten?"

Colin ignores Jesse and pulls out his cell phone and begins dialing as Jesse turns and faces Simon with a suspicious look.

"I thought nothing ever happened here?"

Simon turns away.

"Wait until I tell my mother."

Simon turns to face Jesse again. He seems angry.

## 26
## New York City

"He's in California with his girlfriend."

Roland leans back in his chair as he faces Jason Wyatt and glances at several boxes piled high on his desk. He sighs.

"I have a really sweet story for you. Plenty of drama and mystery thrown in also—quite a blockbuster story no doubt."

Jason seems confused.

"I've heard that before—and then I get sent to some lame town with weird townspeople that time forgot. Count me out."

Jason gives Roland a knowing look.

"I'd rather stalk some druggie actor."

Roland leans forward.

"Malone is going to handle this story when he gets back from his vacation—in the meantime I'm sending you to a little town called Castle Beach—quite the story playing there."

Jason rolls his eyes.

"Where the hell is Castle Beach?"

"It's just outside of Boston."

Jason shrugs.

"Exactly how small is this quaint paradise?"

Roland seems annoyed.

"What does it matter? There's talk about body snatching from what I heard—just the kind of thing our readers love."

Roland smirks.

"It's got plenty of juice to make headlines."

Jason shakes his head.

"What if I say no?"

Roland leans back in his chair again.

"Do you even have to ask?"

Jason seems upset.

## 27

"The deceased resembles the girl in the photo."

Robert shakes his head as he looks at Colin and Simon.

"She's number ten by my count."

He watches as their eyes seem focused on the rocks below the bluffs. Jesse is sitting a few yards away. Robert shrugs.

"Think this kid could be our killer?"

Colin gestures with his hand.

"No reason to assume so."

He faces Robert with a defeated look.

"Shoot me your report as soon as you can."

Robert nods. Colin and Simon look at each other as Robert walks toward the coroner's van. Simon seems upset.

"Maybe it's time we make this public?"

Colin reacts.

"Let's wait a bit. Last thing we need here is CNN doing daily stories about the latest casualty—bad news all around."

Simon glances at Jesse.

"What about the kid?"

Colin shrugs.

**28**

"Someone like you shouldn't be alone."

Lana Collins looks up to see Cyril leering at her.

"I don't recall asking for company."

Cyril flexes his muscular arms and grins.

"I never said you did."

He smirks.

"I'm done with Natalie."

Lana sighs loudly.

"And you're telling me this why?"

Cyril flexes his arms again as he sits down next to Lana.

"Ouch."

He leans closer to her.

"I thought we could get back together."

Lana reacts.

"Why would I want to do that?"

Cyril grins broadly.

"We were quite the pair."

Lana glares at Cyril.

"I haven't forgotten about you and Brooke."

Cyril rolls his eyes.

"How long are you going to squawk about that?"

Lana stands up.

"You fucked her in our bed."

Cyril begins to laugh.

"It's been over a year—get over it already."

He gestures with his hand.

"It wasn't my fault—Brooke Tennyson is a tease."

Lana walks away as Cyril turns to see a few people looking at him. He runs his fingers through his hair and sighs loudly.

"She seems to think she's something special."

He heads back to his car.

## 29

"I've got to get going."

Tyler pulls on his sneakers and then faces Andrea who seems upset. He makes several lewd gestures with his finger.

"It was quite the moment earlier."

Andrea seems annoyed.

"Where are you headed in such a rush?"

Tyler turns to face Andrea again with a sly grin.

"I've got something important to do."

Andrea climbs out of bed.

"What's her name?"

Tyler rolls his eyes.

"Don't even think of going there."

Andrea grabs Tyler by the arm.

"I don't like how promiscuous you are."

Tyler laughs.

"I prefer to think of myself as incredibly popular."

He pulls his arm free of Andrea's grip.

"But if you must know I've met someone new."

Andrea seems enraged.

"What's the whore's name?"

Tyler laughs loudly.

"Caroline."

He combs his hair as he stands in front of a mirror.

"I met her at a diner out by the highway."

He faces Andrea with a sly grin and winks.

"One thing led to another."

He makes a lewd gesture with his finger.

"She gives a really good blowjob if you must know."

He reaches for the doorknob.

"She really knows how to tongue a guy's dick."
He licks his lips several times.
"You could learn quite a few things from Caroline."
Andrea reacts.
"How dare you."
She watches him leave.
"He'll pay for this slight. I swear he will."
She turns around.

## 30

Jesse looks up at his house and sighs loudly as he seems unsure of what to do next. He shuffles toward the path leading to the backyard and stops as he sees Sabrina McCord sitting a few feet away at one of the metal stools near a tiny rose garden.
"Sabrina?"
She stands up.
"I've been waiting for you."
She seems upset.
"Sorry I couldn't go to the beach with you."
Jesse shrugs.
"I saw a dead body."
Sabrina seems shocked.
"What?"
Jesse walks over to where she's standing.
"There was someone dead on the rocks by the bluff."
Sabrina seems aghast.
"Did you see who it was?"
Jesse shakes his head.
"Cops kept me away after I called."
He sits down at one of the stools and sighs.
"They kept jabbering away about some serial killer dude on the loose. Said this was the tenth victim they'd found."
Sabrina reacts.
"Some crazy freak is on the loose?"
Jesse nods several times.

"My mom thought this was a safe place to live."

He stifles a smirk.

"Guess she was wrong."

Sabrina nervously wrings her hands.

## 31

"Is there anything we can work with?"

Robert closes the metal doors behind him and faces Colin.

"This is one slick nutjob."

He grimaces.

"He certainly isn't an amateur."

Colin glances at the steel doors for a few seconds.

"I have a sinking feeling our guy is local."

He shrugs.

"Eleven can't be far away."

Robert wipes sweat from his brow.

"He's probably looking right now if he hasn't already found his latest mark—I can see the headlines already."

He stands and walks to the door.

"The press is going to have a field day."

Colin nods in agreement.

## 32

"Of course they have no idea."

Nina Thurston rolls her eyes and sighs loudly.

"It's just another job to me."

She leans against the balcony door.

"Two more payments and I'm done for good."

She begins to laugh as she looks at the clock on the wall.

"They'll be shocked when they find out."

She waves her hand in the air.

"They made it so easy."

She sighs loudly as the voice on the other end of her cell phone seems to become increasingly shrill with each reply.

"I'll handle it. Don't worry."
She walks toward a small kitchenette.

**33**

"I heard you're single."
Daniel turns to see Brooke Tennyson looking at him.
"Jill dumped me."
Brooke licks her lips seductively.
"I never liked her anyway."
She sighs loudly.
"She's too much of a goody-goody."
Daniel shrugs.
"I'm just not in the mood for your insults."
He turns away from her.
"Did I say something wrong?"
She rolls her eyes as she watches him walk away.

**34**

A young woman screams in pain as she's hit repeatedly by her assailant. As the violence intensifies she tries to get out of the car. Out of nowhere a heavy object smashes against her head and she shudders for a few seconds and then becomes silent.

# TO BE CONTINUED

## A Brief Look at the Third Episode

Not everything is what it seems as one by one townspeople in Ocean Landing begin to face reality that their "charmed" lives aren't perfect and those they know might not be who they appear to be—while a diabolical serial killer strikes again and again.

## Episode 3
# Deadly Playground

**1**

"I'm keeping our baby."

Todd Zimmer slowly runs his fingers through his hair as he glares at Serena Jackson. He seems extremely frenzied.

"How can you be so selfish Serena? Think about how your choice will ruin my life. I'll end up a pathetic gas jockey."

Serena rolls her eyes and sighs.

"I'm aware of how your parents will react."

She seems upset.

"They'll hate the idea of you having a biracial baby."

Todd grabs Serena by the arm.

"This isn't about you being black."

Serena looks down at her stomach.

"Are you sure it's not—I think it is about race."

She looks around.

"It's clear—a black girl giving birth to her white boyfriend's baby in a small town where people trash talk could be a problem for his white parents who dream of white grandchildren."

Todd looks at Serena curiously.

"My parents are not racists like those jerks on FOX News who pretend they are tolerant when in reality they're not."

Serena shrugs.

"I never said your parents were racist."

She sighs loudly.

"But we already know how they frown on you being with me despite them never telling you. I see their disappointed looks when they think I'm not looking at them. Facts are facts."

Todd reaches out to touch Serena's hand.

"They never said anything."

Serena pulls away.

"They didn't have to."

A tear falls down her cheek.

"I love you. I can't help it."

Todd reaches out to touch Serena's arm again.

"I love you too."

They look at each other.

"But I'm not ready for fatherhood."

Serena looks down at her stomach and sighs.

"I'm not due for seven months."

She wipes a tear from her cheek.

"I won't kill your baby."

Todd glances at Serena nervously.

**2**

Tyler Hernandez watches with a huge grin on his face as Caroline Peyser mouths his exposed penis. As her head bobs up and down he begins moaning loudly. He smirks broadly.

"A guy could get used to a girl like you."

He begins to laugh loudly. A few minutes later he watches as she licks semen from the edges of her mouth. He laughs again as he buttons his jeans. He winks at her as she stands up.

"Hard to believe you're a photographer."

Caroline looks at Tyler curiously and leans over to whisper in his ear. His eyes widen within seconds. He begins laughing.

"A woman who specializes in male nudes—most certainly would lead to plenty of sexual encounters with your subjects."

Caroline makes a lewd gesture with her finger as she kisses Tyler. They kiss passionately for a few seconds.

"I'm available if you need a subject."

Caroline smirks.

"I was hoping I could sway you."

Tyler grins.

"I was swayed the minute your tongue touched my dick."

He looks down at his swelling erection.

"I'm always ready for new adventures in case what's happened so far between us isn't clear enough. There are just so many things we can do together—with and without a camera."

Caroline slides her fingers across Tyler's cheek and kisses him again. She glances at his wedding ring and sighs.

"What the deal with the wife?"

Tyler rolls his eyes.

"A little thing like marriage isn't a problem for someone like me. I do as I please—always have—it's just how I roll."

Caroline slyly slides her fingers across Tyler's erection.

"I'm glad to hear it."

She tugs at the buttons on his Levi's.

"I'm not done with you just yet."

Tyler laughs loudly.

**3**

Ward Brady stands as he watches Larisa Lopez walk into the lobby of the inn. He slowly walks from the cafe to where she is standing at the front desk. She turns around to face him.

"How is your mother?"

Larisa glances at Ward with a curious stare.

"She's fine—very relaxed."

She laughs as she walks behind the front desk.

"She hated the whole deal at first but then I couldn't get her to leave when her time was up. She's now a convert."

Ward smirks.

"Glad to hear it."

He looks around.

"I have a few questions."

Larisa looks at Ward oddly and sighs.

"Is something wrong?"

Ward makes a gesture with his hand and points to the front door. He seems nervous as he faces Larisa once more.

"How well do you know Ocean Landing?"

Larisa shrugs.

"I've lived here almost all my life."

Ward grins.

"I just bought a house at Larkspur Bluffs."

He wipes sweat from his brow.

"I heard from someone you personally decorated the inn."

Larisa smiles broadly.

"I just threw a whole bunch of stuff together."

Ward glances at the lobby.

"How about you throw a whole bunch of stuff together for my new home? Real estate agent is giving me the grand tour first thing in the morning. I gather from the photos I saw the place hasn't been updated to the way a home should look like."

Larisa waves her hand in the air.

"I know the house you're talking about. Place has been shuttered for about ten years I think—maybe even longer."

She leans over to whisper in Ward's ears.

"Place was owned by a winery owner and his family for over fifty years. Family moved away when their winery business hit the skids after a couple of terrible investments put a crimp in their finances. Last I heard they were living in Santa Barbara."

Ward looks around at the lobby.

"I'll pay top dollar."

Larisa notices a few people looking at her and seems annoyed at the intrusion. She faces Ward again and sighs.

"I'll make you a fair offer for my services."

Ward nods in agreement.

## 4

"It's not the end of the world."

Daniel Williams turns around to see his brother looking at him with a shade of pity. He rolls his eyes and turns away. Greg Williams sits down at the bar next to his younger brother.

"Don't you have somewhere else to be?"

Greg rolls his eyes.

"I'm free for the rest of the afternoon."

Daniel turns away.

"I'm not in the mood for company."

Greg reaches out to touch Daniel's shoulder.

"It just wasn't meant to be."

Daniel turns to face Greg.

"What part of I'm not in the mood for company don't you understand big brother. I want to be alone. Get lost already."

Greg rolls his eyes again.

"How about we go for a ride up the coast?"

Daniel shakes his head.

"I thought I just *told* you a second ago to get lost."

He stands up and walks away.

## 5

Father William looks at his newest conquest as she pulls on her clothes. He grins broadly as he slides his fingers across her blouse. They look at each other for a few seconds. He sighs.

"You should've told me it was your first time."

He laughs slyly.

"A man can only be so gentle."

Hailey Jackson looks defeated and sighs.

"God said it was his will."

Father William winks.

"God knows best."

He laughs.

"Don't forget what I told you."

Hailey nods.

"I won't tell anyone."

Father William leers at Hailey as he slips his fingers into her bra and grins. He looks down at his erection poking its way out of his robe and smirks. He leers at her again and laughs.

"I think God has decided."

He pushes Hailey against the wall and penetrates her. She cries out as his penis begins throbbing seconds later. Hailey cries out even louder as Father William seems to lose control and rams her repeatedly as his laughter echoes loudly throughout the small room with a gold cross hanging above them offering hope.

**6**

"I thought you were done with me?"

Cyril Spalding rolls his eyes as Brooke Tennyson looks at the drink in her hand. He leans closer to her and laughs.

"A guy can change his mind."

He grins broadly.

"Got a problem with that?"

Brooke turns away.

"I'm just not into you right now."

Cyril seems stung by the comment and shrugs.

"OK—fine—whatever."

He turns away. She reaches out to stroke his cheek.

"Hey, I was only kidding."

Cyril grins and faces Brooke once more. Brooke lets her hand slide down to his belt buckle. She tugs at it and winks.

"I hope you're not sleepy."

Cyril grins broadly.

"I'm wide awake and fully charged—ready and willing."

He watches her fingers tug at his jeans.

"Is it going to be my place or yours?"

Brooke shrugs as she heads to the front door of the bar.

"It doesn't matter much to me. You decide."

Cyril grins broadly as he follows her.

"I got to make a stop to buy a pack of condoms."

Brooke stops and faces Cyril.

**7**

"Do your parents know?"

Serena turns to face Todd.

"I haven't had the nerve to tell them yet."

Todd sighs loudly.

"My parents will kill me."

Todd runs his fingers through his hair as his eyes dart back and forth. He watches as Serena touches her stomach.

"I'm going to see my doctor tomorrow."

Todd runs his fingers through his hair again.

"I need time to think about this."

He reaches out to stroke Serena's hand.

"I'm sorry for the way I've acted."

Serena nods.

**8**

"Next time I'll drain you of all your energy."

"Is that a threat I hear?"

Caroline nods.

"It's a done deal if you must know."

Tyler laughs as Caroline kisses him again. She slides her hands between his legs. He lets out a loud moan and grins as her fingers trace the outline of his stiff penis. He laughs loudly.

"I knew there was something I really liked about you."

They kiss once more.

"Is tomorrow too soon?"

Caroline nods and pulls Tyler toward her.

"Who's Carrie?"

Caroline kisses Tyler again and sighs.

"What's her deal with you?"

Tyler seems shocked at hearing Carrie's name.

"She's nobody. Why do you ask?"

Caroline seems upset.

"She must be somebody important if you saw the need to call out her name twice while you were fucking me earlier."

Tyler laughs loudly.

"She's just some chick I fuck whenever I feel like it. She means nothing at all to me. Is it my fault I'm a popular guy?"

Caroline strokes Tyler's neck and grins.

"I see I'm going to have to keep my eye on you."

Tyler kisses Caroline passionately.

"See that you do."

He glances at his watch.

## 9

David Kipling looks at the graphic photographs on his desk and seems about to throw up. He turns to face Colin Baxter sitting at his desk. He shrugs as he closes the thick folder.

"It should be easy to figure."

He wipes sweat from his brow.

"Serial killers are always predictable."

Colin rolls his eyes.

"This one might be different."

He sighs loudly.

"He could be one of us."

David stands up.

"What if he's the Red Valley killer?"

Colin seems confused as David walks toward the window.

"There were several murders in Red Valley about ten years ago. The killer got away. It was quite the Internet story."

Colin rolls his eyes mockingly.

"Forget it—no story there. I already checked."

David faces Colin. He gestures wildly with his hand.

"What if the Red Valley killer and our killer are one and the same? It would certainly make sense. Maybe we should call?"

Colin waves his hand.

"Nice angle—but dead on arrival."

He faces the computer.

"He was caught—in Arizona last year. Bastard is awaiting trial in Phoenix for killing his mother—creep confessed to the Red Valley murders—as well as seven others when he was busted."

David seems defeated and sighs.

**10**

Christopher Allington looks at Carrie Woods from across the street and rolls his eyes. He glances at the small box next to him and smiles. He turns to look at Carrie again and smirks.

"She has no idea."

He clenches his fist in anger.

**11**

"You're the sweetest guy ever."

Astrid Thomas hugs Ben Allington as they watch feral cats in a distance lap up food from several trays. Ben shrugs as he glances at the necklace in Astrid's hand. She kisses him.

"You didn't have to buy me anything."

Ben grins broadly.

"I wanted to."

Astrid looks at the necklace again.

"Can you afford to buy me something like this?"

Ben smirks.

"I'm a computer tutor. It pays well."

Astrid hugs Ben again.

"I'm so lucky."

Ben pulls Astrid toward him.

"I'm the one who's lucky."

He pulls a strand of hair from her face.

"Do you think your father will like me? I know I've got plenty of baggage where my family is concerned—terrible."

Astrid looks at Ben curiously and seems puzzled.

"Of course he will. Why wouldn't he?"

He glances at the feral cats nearby and sighs.

## 12
## Boston

Jeremy Winterfield snaps his fingers several times as Andrew Latimer turns to face him. Jeremy seems annoyed.

"No daydreaming in my office."

Andrew sighs loudly.

"I'm sorry."

Jeremy cautiously looks at the stack of folders piled high on top of Andrew's desk. He seems upset and turns away.

"I need these checked ASAP."

Andrew nods several times and sighs.

"No problem."

Jeremy faces Andrew again.

"Is there something going on with you?"

Andrew shrugs.

"No."

Jeremy looks at his watch.

"How about we talk about it later anyway?"

Andrew nods.

## 13

"Are you there right now?"

Andrea Byron grins broadly as she looks at the cell phone picture of Carrie's apartment. She licks her lips several times.

"Use the key I gave you."

She licks her lips again and laughs.

"Do what you must."

She slides her fingers across her neck and grins.

"Turn her life upside down."

She laughs as she nods repeatedly.

## 14

Ward glances at Larisa as they walk to his car.

"What's the dirt on the house I bought?"

Larisa looks at Ward oddly.

"I don't know much other than the fact it was owned previous by a winery family. They were very reserved and had no real contact with local folks in Ocean Landing. Spent their weekends up the coast from what I remember. The house itself was built in 1877. If there's history it would be packed away in the archives at the library. Ocean Landing dates back to 1845."

Ward gestures with his hand.

"Pioneer stock?"

Larisa nods.

"I think so. Founding family was named Carlisle. Name has long gone away. But still a few descendants left though with the last name Zimmer and Latimer. They own a few shopping centers around Ocean Landing and most of the Larkspur Point area."

Ward looks back toward the inn.

"I knew I made the right decision with you."

He grins.

"When the house is finished I'm sure it'll be every bit as beautiful as you. I have no worries. You'll do just fine."

Larisa smiles broadly.

## 15

Maureen O'Bannon glances at the picture hanging over the fireplace and sighs. She turns away and looks out at a small garden just outside her kitchen. She pushes a wisp of hair out of her face and walks toward the back door. She seems upset.

"Maybe I should visit Andrew in Boston?"

She reaches for the doorknob and stops suddenly. She seems about to cry. She leans against the door and sighs.

"It's been so long since I saw him last."

She closes the door behind her and walks toward the small garden. She stops and slowly looks back at her house.

**16**

"I'm assuming your wife of less than four months wouldn't approve if she knew how sexually active you'd been lately?"

Tyler laughs as Caroline strokes his cheek.

"You'd be assuming right."

He kisses Caroline several times.

"I swore to her on our wedding day I'd be faithful."

He laughs loudly and gestures with his hand.

"I lied."

He winks.

"Monogamy is for people with no game."

He smirks.

"I broke my wedding vows on the same afternoon I got married—fucked her cousin in the stairwell of the church."

He pulls Caroline toward him.

"Huge mistake to leave a groom alone right after he takes his vows—her cousin insisted the two of us fuck in the stairwell and I was so horny at that moment I did what comes naturally. It was quite a sexy moment. I impregnated her that afternoon but she got rid of it knowing how both our families would react."

He pins Caroline under him.

"With me you never know what I might do."

Caroline runs her fingers through Tyler's thick hair.

"I like my men unpredictable."

Tyler makes a lewd gesture with his finger.

**17**

"This can't be happening to me."

Carrie Woods peers out of the kitchenette nervously. She seems afraid as time slips by. She takes a step forward.

"Where did I leave my cell phone earlier?"

As she slowly turns around Carrie screams as she sees Christopher looking at her. He grabs her by the neck and pins her against the wall. He grins and leans over to whisper in her ear.

"You should have locked the front door."

He hits her hard across the face.

"It seems you've been behaving like the town whore lately—not giving a damn about how your slutty behavior is affecting those around you—shaming everyone you know."

Carrie seems confused as Christopher punches her several times. She falls backwards as he continues to hit her harder and harder. He laughs as he drags her limp body to the sofa and hits her yet again with his fist. She moans softly as he rams his fist into her throat. She gasps loudly and goes silent. He stops and looks at his handiwork. He grins broadly and turns away.

"Nice way to make a fat wad of cash."

He walks to the door and looks around for a few seconds and then leaves. Seconds later a car is heard driving away.

## 18

Jill Edmondson looks at the video clips on her computer and smiles. She adds a headline and begins editing the clips together and then leans back in her chair. She smiles broadly.

"I think linking the murders with Ocean Landing will really get people talking—make them aware. I might even flush out whoever is behind it—might even get an award for my work."

She glances at her watch.

"Maybe I shouldn't wait until tomorrow?"

Jill sighs.

"Carter will understand."

She leans over and opens up a YouTube account and loads the video. She waits a few seconds and smiles broadly.

"This will certainly start a firestorm."

Less than a minute later the video appears online.

"This might actually be my ticket once and for all out of this drab town. Nothing ever happens here—dull and dreary."

She sighs loudly and leans back in her chair.

"I hate it here. I really do."

She looks at her watch again.

**19**

Cyril watches Brooke curiously as he zips up his jeans and winks at her. He sits by the edge of the bed and reaches out to stroke her hair. Brooke kisses his hand and smiles broadly.

"I always liked you when you didn't have a girlfriend. You were insatiable. Your rep was legendary with my friends."

Cyril laughs loudly.

"Natalie cramped my style no doubt."

Brooke kisses his fingers.

"I assume you're available tomorrow morning for a repeat performance? No strings attached—friends with benefits?"

Cyril nods.

"I hit the gym at six for my daily workout."

He leers at her.

"I can come over at seven for a second workout."

Brooke shakes her head.

"Make it seven-thirty and bring plenty of stamina."

Cyril nods and leans over to kiss her.

"Your gain is Natalie's loss. Stupid bitch seems to think she can have any guy she wants in Ocean Landing. I don't know why I ever bothered with her at all—she bored me silly."

He kisses Brooke again.

"I'm much better off with someone like you."

Brooke looks at Cyril and licks her lips.

**20**

"I can't say no to you."

April Estes watches Father William undress. He watches her as he slowly pulls off his boxer briefs and grins broadly.

"You have such an incredible hold over me."

Father William looks at April and grins as he walks toward her. April seems mesmerized as she looks at his penis sticking out in front of him like a sharp pointed arrow. She moans loudly.

"Carl is never around."

Father William leers at April.

"I'm glad you came to me last week with your concerns about Carl. Sometimes God works in mysterious ways."

He laughs.

"I was just what you needed."

April sighs loudly.

"Are you sure no one knows about us?"

Father William smirks.

"No worries."

He pulls April toward his naked body and laughs as he kisses her lightly at first and then more passionately.

"Carl should be mortally ashamed for neglecting you."

He pushes her against the wall and moves into position. Her moans become louder as his body presses against hers.

"It's a terrible thing when husbands ignore their wives."

Seconds later he penetrates her.

"I'll never ignore you April. I promise."

April nods helplessly.

## 21

"I don't hate you."

Todd turns to face Serena.

"I could never hate the father of my baby."

Serena looks down at her stomach.

"I'm really sorry if I messed up your life."

Todd reaches out to gently touch her hand.

"It's what it is."

He pulls her toward him and they hug for several minutes as Serena seems about to cry. Todd looks at her curiously.

"Is something wrong?"

Serena shakes her head and looks away.

"If you change your mind in a few days and want nothing to do with me because of the baby I'll totally understand."

Todd seems upset and shrugs.

**22**

"This isn't cool at all."

Alan Wong looks at the suit hanging on his closet door. He slowly turns to face his mother. She seems upset and sighs.

"I'm not wearing it—not even for money."

Louise Wong looks at her son with a hurt look on her face. She glances at the suit and then at her son. He shrugs.

"It's just not me. It's not my style. Where the hell did you get it? Did you buy it from an online vintage shop where they sell all those really tacky outfits from the 1980s? Who in their right mind would wear a powder blue suit today? Ugh—I hate it."

Louise walks over to where Alan is standing.

"I didn't buy it."

She glances at the suit.

"It was your father's."

Alan looks at his mother with a shocked look.

"I didn't know."

He looks at the suit again with a scowl on his face. He shakes his head several times and faces his mother again.

"I'm not wearing that in public. No offense but dad was a teenager in 1986. That's like a thousand years ago. I'm not him. I want to wear something to the prom that I like. Vintage suits are definitely not where it's at today. I'll even pay for it myself."

Louise puts her arms around Alan. They hug for a few seconds as she glances at the suit. She strokes his hair.

"It was certainly not my intention to make you feel uncomfortable. I just thought you would get a kick out of it."

Alan faces his mother.

"I'm sorry I'm such a jerk. I never meant to be. It's just that dad had really bad taste. What was he thinking back then?"

Louise pretends to slap Alan.

"It was hip back in the day to wear clothes like that to the prom. It made a statement to everyone else there. Your father was quite popular with girls in his school. He racked up plenty of dates from what he told me. He had a rep from what I heard."

Alan looks at Louise with an odd look.

"I think dad made up most of what he told you."

He glances at the suit again.

"No dude that wore a suit like that could ever be popular with girls—then or now. I'm just not buying it—no way—seems like dad was really into revisionist history if you must know."

Louise cracks a smile.

"I chose to believe what he told me."

Alan rolls his eyes.

## 23

"Did Carrie put up a fight?"

Christopher digs his hands into the front pocket of his jeans and watches Andrea close the door behind him.

"She fell under the charming influence of my fist."

Andrea licks her lips and smiles broadly.

"Will she need plastic surgery?"

Christopher laughs.

"I don't think so."

He leans toward Andrea and winks slyly.

"Carrie Woods had been dealt with exactly the way you demanded. She will no longer pursue Tyler Hernandez."

Andrea licks her lips again.

"I would've loved a tape of what happened."

Christopher suddenly pulls Andrea toward him.

"How about we make our own tape?"

Andrea strokes Christopher's cheek as he pushes her up against the front door. He begins kissing her passionately.

"I have a camera with me."

Andrea shakes her head.

"What would your girlfriend say?"

Christopher laughs loudly.

"She's been busy with all sorts of stuff lately. What she doesn't know won't hurt her where you and I are concerned."

Andrea begins to unzip Christopher's jeans.

## 24

"Damn it."

Simon Andrews turns to face David.

"There's a story on YouTube about the murders."

David walks over to Simon's desk. Together they look at the video detailing links of the murders in Ocean Landing.

"This is exactly what we didn't want."

He clenches his fist.

"This will only make things worse."

He jumps up suddenly and heads to the door.

"Where are you going?"

Simon stops and faces David.

"I think Jill Edmondson and I need to talk."

David wags his finger at Simon.

"Didn't you date her sister?"

Simon nods.

"Her sister and I were actually engaged."

He sighs loudly.

"She left me for Cyril Spalding."

David makes a gesture with his hand as Simon reaches for the doorknob. He seems upset as he faces David again.

"They broke up two weeks later."

David reacts.

"I bet that slight hurt for quite a while afterwards."

Simon shrugs.

"It wouldn't have worked out for us anyway even if Cyril hadn't bedded my wife-to-be in the backseat of his car."

He sighs loudly.

"Heather Edmondson and I were much too different to ever be compatible. I'm actually glad it ended when it did."

David wags his finger again and laughs.

"Uh-huh. Keep telling yourself that fantastic tale."

Simon rolls his eyes and leaves.

## 25

Gail Hernandez walks toward a baby apparel store and smiles as she looks at the large display in the store window.

"Are you and Tyler having a baby?"

Gail spins around suddenly to face Rebecca Martin staring at her. She seems somewhat annoyed at the intrusion.

"Why would you think that?"

Rebecca glances at the front window of the store.

"I assume you and Tyler are trying."

Gail smiles broadly.

"Of course we're trying. But no baby yet."

Rebecca leans over to whisper.

"Not everyone is what they appear to be in Ocean Landing of late. Lots of good folks are doing things they shouldn't."

Gail turns and looks at Rebecca strangely.

"What's that suppose to mean?"

Rebecca rolls her eyes.

"Pay attention and you shall see plenty. There are answers everywhere—you just have to be willing to pay attention."

She walks away without saying another word.

"I wonder what that's all about."

Gail watches as Rebecca begins talking to someone else on the sidewalk. She shakes her head and turns away.

## 26

"You know what the deal is already. It's over."

Carol Malinger sighs loudly and seems slightly annoyed.

"No chance to fix anything."

Carol slowly walks back and forth and rolls her eyes as she looks at the cell phone in her hands—she stops suddenly.

"Our marriage is kaput because of what you did with our darling neighbor. She wasn't the first in case you think I didn't know. But she most certainly is the last. I filed yesterday."

Carol seems about to explode.

"This conversation is over."

She sighs as she places the cell phone down on the table nearby. As she turns around she sees Jesse watching her.

"Was that dad?"

Carol nods.

"He wanted to fix things."

Jesse seems irritated and walks toward Carol.

"I hope you told him off royally."

Carol smirks.

"I did."

Jesse reaches out and hugs his mother.

"I stand with you."

Carol looks at Jesse curiously.

"What did you do with my son young man?"

Jesse rolls his eyes.

## 27

Jill looks up as she sees Simon coming toward her. He seems upset. She stands up. He turns back to look at the door.

"Simon?"

Simon faces Jill once more.

"Exactly what do you think you're doing?"

Jill seems confused.

"Excuse me?"

Simon points to the computer.

"You shouldn't have leaked that story."

Jill turns to look at her computer and sighs loudly.

"I wasn't aware I needed your permission."

He takes a step forward.

"There's someone very dangerous out there."

Simon takes another step.

"They have killed and will kill again."

Jill looks at her computer again and sighs.

"I think people should know."

Simon sighs loudly.

"Whoever has been killing stray hitchhikers out by the highway could possibly be someone from Ocean Landing."

Simon wipes sweat from his brow.

"Someone we know."

Jill seems alarmed.

"But we know everyone?"

"Do we?"

Jill looks at the computer once more.

**28**

The images on YouTube fly across the screen. As the video continues streaming, fingers tap on the desk. Without warning a fist smashes against a keyboard seconds later.

**Two Days Later**

---

**29**

"This is exactly what I was afraid would happen."

Colin glances at Simon nervously as they watch Robert Widdemer in a distance escorting a covered body up from a patch of jagged rocks fronting the Pacific Ocean. He turns away.

"Damn that YouTube video."

Simon turns to look at Robert once more.

"The video is still online?"

Simon seems disgusted and shrugs.

"Two million views as of eight-thirty this morning."

"What did Carter Benning say about it?"

Simon nervously wrings his hands. They share a glance for several seconds. Simon gestures with his hand moments later.

"He took Jill's side—said it was important news."

At that moment the covered body is carried toward the coroner's van a few yards away. Robert stops suddenly.

"This one wasn't a hitchhiker."

Colin and Simon look at each other.

"Got an ID?"

Robert nods and pulls out a sealed plastic bag from his pocket with a driver's license inside. He hands it to Colin.

"Found it in the pant leg pocket. I'm guessing his killer was in a rush. Poor guy was beaten up pretty badly—neck broken in two places. He put up a fight apparently before he passed."

"Was he raped?"

Robert shakes his head.

"No."

They look at each other.

## 30

"Colin Baxter is in a mood over your story."

Jill smiles slyly at Carter Benning.

"He'll get over it."

She leans back in her chair.

"There's a serial killer loose somewhere. People need to know what's going on in Ocean Landing before it's too late."

Carter stifles a smirk.

"I actually liked seeing the look on his face of total defeat knowing he was on the losing side for a change. Colin Baxter has always been really tightly wound. He and I go way back."

Jill glances at the computer.

"Do you really think the killer is someone we know?"

Carter seems uneasy.

"That's the way it seems at the moment."

Jill shakes her head.

"How scary would it be if it's one of us?"

She glances at the computer screen again and seems troubled by what she just said aloud and wrings her hands.

"This town has its share of sick freaks without a doubt."

Carter makes a gesture with his hand and laughs.

"I nominate my ex—she's certifiable."

Jill cracks a smile and nods.

**31**

"Carrie?"

Jackie Woods knocks on the front door of her daughter's apartment again. There is no answer. She knocks again.

"Where can she be?"

She seems worried as she faces the hallway.

**32**

"I can't believe Carrie is ignoring you."

Tyler seems upset as he slams into Andrea again.

"No worries—Caroline more than makes up for Carrie's rude behavior over the last few days. I tried calling and then I went by her place but she was out. She's playing hard to get."

Andrea seems enraged.

"I thought Caroline was a one-time thing?"

Tyler laughs.

"I guess you thought wrong."

He smirks slyly.

"I was with her right before I came over. Her tongue and my dick are best friends. She has an insatiable appetite."

Andrea pushes Tyler off her.

"Having you fucking Carrie on a regular basis was bad enough. But this Caroline situation is really pissing me off."

Tyler lazily scratches his chest and winks.

"A guy needs plenty of variety."

Andrea grabs Tyler's arm.

"I don't like it that you have so many sexual partners."

Tyler jerks his arm free from Andrea's grip.

"I don't recall needing your permission when it comes to me having my own life. I'm my own man—deal with it."

He grabs his Levi's from the floor.

"We're just friends with benefits Andrea—nothing more than that. I never said I'd remain true to you. I thought that was clear with how I've handled my stupid sham of a marriage."

Andrea looks at her cell phone lying nearby.

"What if Gail found out?"

Tyler jumps on the bed and grabs Andrea in a rage.

"Are you threatening me?"

They look at each other for a few seconds.

"I won't be threatened Andrea."

He angrily twists her arm backwards and grins.

"I'm not the type of guy you want to trifle with by any means you stupid bitch. I'll mess you up really badly if you cross me. I'll make your life a living hell—and I'll enjoy doing it."

Andrea looks at Tyler and seems defeated.

"I only wanted to be with you."

Tyler lets go of Andrea's arm and sighs.

"You and I have had a sweet arrangement for the last year. But that's all it is—that's all it'll ever be. There is no future for us. Not now and not ever. How much clearer can I be?"

Andrea kisses Tyler.

"I'm sorry. Please forgive me."

Tyler smirks.

"I accept your apology."

He kisses Andrea. Tyler grins as he notices her reaction to his swelling erection under his jeans. He begins to laugh.

"Uh-huh—it's exactly what it appears."

He kisses her again.

"No more talk about me being faithful."

She nods several times.

"I won't ever bring it up again. I promise."

Tyler kisses Andrea again and laughs.

"Caroline and I have the same deal you and I have."

He begins unzipping his Levi's.

"I do as I please."

Andrea nods repeatedly.

**33**

"She's got nerve without a doubt."

Rebecca peers out her window as she sees Father William entering the house next door. She turns away and seems mildly disgusted. She shakes her head several times as she glances at her cell phone on the table a few feet away. She sighs loudly.

"I should tell David."

She turns to look at the window again.

"I always thought that slut was wrong for him."

She faces the cell phone again.

"But I thought Father William was a good man? How could he do something like that? She must have seduced that poor man and broke his will. It's not his fault. It's hers. Damn whore."

She picks up the phone.

**34**

"Who could have done this to my daughter?"

Jackie seems about to faint as she turns to look at Colin and David as Carrie's body is wheeled past her. She watches as Robert slowly loads it into the back of a coroner's van.

# TO BE CONTINUED

## A Brief Look at the Fourth Episode

A rash of brutal murders begin to make suspects of everyone in Ocean Landing as the body count rises seemingly with no end in sight as townspeople find themselves in the midst of a killer while secrets from the past are exposed in the worst way possible.

## Episode 4
# Sins of the Past

**1**

"This one doesn't seem like the others."

Colin Baxter turns to face Simon Andrews as Robert Widdemer appears confused. Simon glances over at the covered body lying a few feet away on a metal table. He sighs loudly.

"Whoever did this to Carrie Woods was very angry about something—possibly a jilted lover with an axe to grind?"

Colin shrugs and looks at the door.

"Local?"

Simon shrugs.

"No idea whatsoever."

He glances at Robert for a second.

"Wasn't she involved with Kyle Garland a while back?"

Robert waves his hand in the air and shrugs.

"Like a week or so from what my daughter told me. He cheated on her. She moved on with Tyler Hernandez."

Simon seems upset.

"Isn't he married to her cousin?"

Robert rolls his eyes.

"Uh-huh—Tyler dumped Carrie for Gail Latimer."

Colin and Simon look at each other.

"Has she been solo since?"

Robert nods.

**2**

Rebecca Martin looks at the photos in front of her and smiles as she places them in a small envelope. She sighs.

"David Kipling deserves to know his wife is a trashy slut."

She grins slyly.

"She should be run out of town."

Rebecca looks at the envelope and shrugs.

"This is what she rightly deserves."

Rebecca seals the envelope.

"Sorry David."

She carries the envelope into the living room and glances out the window. She clenches her fists as she sees Father William driving away and notices Melissa Kipling looking out the front door. Rebecca shrinks back from the window. She seems upset as she looks at the envelope again. She touches it lightly.

**3**

Christopher Allington smirks as he notices Andrea Byron across the street about to go into a drugstore. He takes a sip of coffee and leans back on a mesh metal chair. He smiles.

"That chick is one cold fish."

He chuckles.

"Pity the person who pisses her off."

He takes another sip of coffee.

"Nevertheless I have to find her weak point and use it to my advantage—twist the knife and make her skip to my beat."

He rolls his eyes as Andrea leaves the drugstore.

"Tyler Hernandez better watch his step."

Christopher looks at the cup of coffee in his hand.

"But first things first—this Caroline person needs to be dealt with by the end of today so I can make some dough."

He watches Andrea drive away.

"And once I take care of the stumbling blocks standing in Andrea's way, there won't be anything standing in *my* way."

He shakes his head and stands up.

## 4

April Estes looks at the pregnancy test in her hand and sighs loudly. She throws it in the trash and glances at the door.

"He said he'd impregnate me."

She looks at the trash.

"I just want a baby."

"I thought we talked about this already?"

April spins around in a panic to see Carl Estes standing in the doorway of the bedroom. He seems upset and shrugs.

"We can't afford to have a baby."

He sighs loudly.

"I thought it was decided."

April glances at the trash again.

"I'm sorry."

They look at each other.

"What's the big deal anyway?"

Carl wraps his arms around April and kisses her.

"I thought we were happy?"

April suddenly pulls free of Carl's grip.

"We are. I am. But I just feel so empty inside."

Carl seems upset.

"What about going back to work?"

April sighs.

"I can't. Marta and I had words before I quit."

Carl runs his fingers through his hair.

"What about Richard Endicott and his company?"

April seems uneasy.

"I guess I could. He and I are on good terms."

Carl laughs.

"I should say so. He's our lawyer."

April turns away.

"It's just."

Carl seems confused by April's behavior.

## 5
## Boston

Andrew Latimer is sitting at his desk as Jeremy Winterfield comes toward him. He drops a single sheet of paper on top of Andrew's desk. Andrew looks at him curiously.

"What's this?"

Jeremy smiles broadly.

"What does it look like Latimer?"

Andrew sighs loudly.

"It looks like an itinerary of some sort."

Jeremy winks.

"That's exactly what it is."

Andrew seems confused and shrugs.

"I'm not planning a trip."

Jeremy leans across the desk.

"It's not for you. It's for your mother."

Andrew shakes his head.

"I'm confused."

Jeremy points to the itinerary.

"I'm flying your mother in from California for a week's vacation in Boston. It's time for her to see her wayward son."

Andrew looks at Jeremy curiously.

"What's going on?"

Jeremy walks over to the window and smirks.

"What does it look like?"

He turns around and faces Andrew.

"I know you've been in the dumps lately so I took it upon myself to fix your "little" problem. I called her earlier."

Andrew seems in shock and sighs loudly.

"You called my mother?"

Jeremy sits at the edge of the desk.

"Uh-huh."

They look at each other.

"She arrives in Boston tomorrow at eleven o'clock."

Andrew glances at the itinerary again.

"But I have to work?"

Jeremy laughs.

"Not anymore you don't. As of tomorrow you have the week off on the condition you spend it with your mother."

Andrew nods.

"I didn't expect this."

Jeremy pats Andrew on the shoulder.

## 6

Kyle Garland looks up as Colin and Simon enter his office and seems surprised at the unexpected visit. He rolls his eyes.

"What's up guys?"

Colin and Simon look at each other.

"We need to talk about Carrie Woods."

Kyle leans back in his chair.

"What about her?"

"She was found dead in her apartment about an hour ago. Carrie was badly beaten by someone with anger issues."

Kyle sits up instantly.

"What?"

He seems upset.

"Carrie's dead?"

Kyle looks at Simon and then Colin.

"How did she—who?"

"That's what we'd like to know."

Kyle seems about to faint.

"We had a thing together. It ended."

He leans against his desk.

"I saw her last week. She seemed happy."

Colin and Simon glance at each other knowingly.

"Carrie didn't have any enemies in Ocean Landing—none that I know of anyway—who would want to hurt her?"

He sighs loudly.

"How can I help?"

Colin looks at the cluttered desktop.

"I need your computer."

Kyle looks at Colin oddly.

**7**

Christopher pulls out a pair of brass knuckles from the back pocket of his jeans as he steps out of his car. He grins broadly as he walks toward the apartment building across the street. He looks at the brass knuckles and begins to laugh.

"Oh man I'm going to enjoy this."

He walks through the entrance and smirks.

"Ten thousand smackers for Caroline's demise and ten more if I rough her up terribly before she expires—Andrea made it a point that I damage Caroline's face especially—payback for going after Tyler. Oh well, not my problem after the fact."

He grins as he walks toward the hallway.

**8**

Andrea looks at a photo of Caroline with Tyler and grimaces. Her anger is evident as she crumbles the photograph in her hand and throws it in the trash. She glances at her cell phone briefly as she walks toward the balcony a few feet away.

"Tyler and I will be a couple soon enough."

She stares at the street below.

"Once that stupid bitch is out of the way I can focus on getting rid of Gail. A few photographs of Tyler in compromising positions will certainly do the trick to force her into dumping him once and for all. And once he's free and clear—he's all mine."

She makes a lewd gesture with her finger.

"It's just a matter of time."

She licks her lips.

"Of course there's Christopher."

She clenches her fist.

"I might have to take him out of the picture."

She walks back into her apartment.

"Some things can't he helped."

Andrea notices her cell phone is flashing wildly with an incoming call. She slowly picks it up and smiles broadly.

**9**

"I'm so sorry."

Gail Hernandez reaches out to comfort Jackie Woods as they embrace. Jackie wipes a tear from her eye and sighs.

"How could something like this happen?"

Gail shrugs.

"Colin will find out who killed Carrie."

They hug again.

"They'll pay."

They look at each other.

**10**

"Carrie Woods is dead."

Jill Edmondson looks at Carter Benning in shock.

"What?"

Carter sighs loudly.

"She was beaten to death apparently."

Jill leans back in her chair.

"Could the death of Carrie Woods be connected?"

"Like to the hitchhiker killer?"

Carter runs his fingers through his hair.

"I don't know."

He turns to look at the door.

"I just got a call from Colin Baxter."

Carter slowly runs his fingers through his hair once more.

"He wants to talk to you—didn't say why."

Jill nods in agreement as she grabs her cell phone.

**11**

Rebecca smiles as she casually places an envelope on the hood of David Kipling's car. She glances and walks away.

"I'm so sorry David."

She sighs.

"But you need to know the truth."

She seems upset.

**12**

"I like the way you handled yourself earlier."

Tyler Hernandez grins broadly as Celine Yarmouth slowly unzips his Levi's, exposing his erect penis. She kisses the head several times as Tyler lets out a loud moan. He winks.

"You made me want you more than I usually do when I meet someone new. No doubt I had to have a piece."

He laughs as his penis is enveloped by her mouth.

"Oh yeah—you and I are definitely going to have some moments together. Best way to get to know me is through my dick—certainly not the boy-next-door if you know what I mean. I got a wild streak running through me that can't be tamed."

He explodes in Celine's mouth.

"Telling me you were married only made me want you even more—couldn't resist the thought of seducing you."

He laughs.

"For the record your hubby is a dolt."

He comes a second time.

"Question is—what happens when he finds out about us doing the deed? How does he handle your infidelity?"

Celine gags and looks up at Tyler. He licks his lips.

"I think he should know."

Semen runs down both sides of Celine's mouth as she angrily pushes Tyler away from her. He laughs loudly.

"What kind of person are you?"

Tyler rolls his eyes.

"Things happen, OK—deal with it."

He looks down at his penis.

"I think we need to come to a compromise."

He makes a lewd gesture with his finger and laughs.

"Paul Yarmouth has something I want."

He makes another lewd gesture with his finger and motions for Celine to come toward him. He grins broadly.

"It seems your hubby got his hands on some stock that I wanted to buy. I want it or else I spill the beans to dear Paul that his young trophy wife is cheap whore. It's that simple."

He zips up his Levi's.

"You have 72 hours to work your magic."

Celine glares at Tyler as she wipes semen from her cheek with a look of disgust on her face. He winks and pulls out a single napkin and hands it to her. He rolls his eyes and laughs.

"If you don't deliver—I will."

He looks at the stairwell nearby.

## 13

Sabrina McCord looks at the beach ahead of her as she faces Jesse Malinger. They look at the waves. Several large boulders are scattered along the deserted beach. Sabrina takes Jesse's hand and begins walking toward a picnic table nearby.

"This is where I go to think."

Jesse turns to face Sabrina and smirks.

"Think about what?"

Sabrina suddenly pulls Jesse toward her and kisses him. He seems surprised and grins broadly. She kisses him again.

"On whether or not I should kiss you?"

Sabrina reaches out to touch his lips with her finger.

"I like you. I like you a lot."

Jesse waves his hand and smirks.

"I like you too."

He pulls her toward him and they kiss for a few seconds.

"Guys like girls who take charge."

They begin kissing again.

## 14

"Get out of here right now or I'll call the cops."

Christopher looks at Caroline Peyser and begins laughing loudly as he circles her. He looks at the knife in her hand.

"This is the end of the road."

He grins as he takes a step forward.

"You've caused enough trouble."

Caroline seems confused.

"What are you talking about?"

Christopher looks at the brass knuckles in his hand.

"It seems you've pissed off someone royally in the last week or so who deems it necessary that you be punished."

He lunges at Caroline and attacks her viciously. She screams for help as she drops the knife amid crushing blows from the brass knuckles. She begs for mercy as the attack intensifies and she falls to the floor with Christopher on top of her.

"Please I'll do anything you want."

Christopher laughs.

"I'll just bet you would."

He hits her across the face several times.

"But I got my orders."

Caroline screams as he hits her again.

"You're just a pesky loose end."

He rams his fist into her face and laughs.

"Open casket I think not."

Caroline cries out for help. Christopher becomes enraged and wraps his hands around her throat. He begins to strangle her and watches as she gasps for air. He smiles triumphantly.

"Say hi to Carrie Woods for me."

Seconds later he breaks her neck. He stands up and looks down at her crumpled body. He angrily kicks her body a few times and then turns to leave. He begins to whistle joyfully.

## 15

"Enough with the sappy sweet talk Roland. What do you want this time? What schemes are you up to? Spill it."

Scott Malone turns to look at Sandra King.

"That story in Castle Beach is going to have to wait."

He makes a gesture to Sandra.

"Put someone else on it if you have to."

He rolls his eyes.

"I'll call you tomorrow. Bye."

He shuts off his cell phone and faces Sandra.

"Roland never gives up."

Sandra strokes Scott's lips.

"Castle Beach must be some story if he's this insistent?"

Scott laughs.

"I'll just bet."

He looks at the highway up ahead.

"There's something there by those reddish rocks."

Sandra turns to look where Scott is pointing.

"What are you talking about?"

Scott sighs as he slows down and comes upon what looks like an oversized duffel bag. They both look at it curiously.

"You don't think?"

Scott glances at Sandra and shrugs. He turns to look at the duffel bag again. He seems upset as he faces Sandra.

"I hope not."

He jumps out of the car and slowly ventures toward the duffel bag a few feet away. He reaches out to touch the bag and shrinks away when he notices several fingers poking out from one side. He turns back to Sandra with a look of disgust. He looks once more at the duffel bag and walks back toward the car.

"Call the police. There's been a murder."

Sandra looks at Scott for a few seconds and shakes her head as she grabs her cell phone. As she dials Scott turns to face the oversized duffel bag again as several cars zip pass them.

**16**

Nina Thurston looks at her cell phone and seems annoyed as it rings endlessly. She shuts off the phone and sighs.

"Where the hell is he?"

She turns to look at her computer.

"This time next week I'll be relaxing in San Francisco."

She smirks slyly.

"When they find out it'll be too late."

She glances at her cell phone again nervously.

"Where the fuck is he?"

She seems upset.

**17**

David Kipling slows down and pulls to a stop directly in front of Scott and Sandra. They point to the duffel bag. David looks at them curiously and walks over. He stops suddenly and faces Scott and Sandra again. He watches their reactions.

"Did either of you see anyone hanging around the area?"

"Place was completely deserted."

David gingerly reaches out to tug at the duffel bag and steps back slightly as a hand slips out of the bag. He gags as he notices blood trickling down the fingers. He turns around.

## One Day Later

**18**

Andrea grins broadly as she unzips Tyler's jeans. She pushes him against the wall as he laughs. They kiss briefly.

"This is the way it should always be."

Tyler smirks.

"I agree."

As Tyler's erect penis comes into full view, Andrea notices remnants of dried semen on the head. She seems upset and looks at Tyler. Her rage is evident. He notices and laughs loudly.

"What's the matter?"

Andrea pushes Tyler away from her.

"Who did you just fuck?"

Tyler laughs.

"That's for me to know and you to find out."

Andrea reaches out to slap Tyler but he pulls away.

"I thought I made it clear that we were not going to play this game. You and I are just fuck buddies—nothing more."

Andrea reacts at the comment.

"Who was it?"

She clenches her fist.

"What's the whore's name?"

Tyler looks at Andrea with an amused look.

"I'm not telling."

He gestures with his hand.

"I came over here for an early morning romp."

He makes a lewd gesture with his finger.

"But if you're not in the mood?"

He turns to leave.

"I'm so sorry. Please don't leave."

Tyler turns to face Andrea with a grin. She notices his penis sticking out in front of him. He glances at the hallway.

"How about we just head over to your bedroom and forget you were ever so rude to me just a few moments ago?"

He looks down at his penis and winks.

"I'm a popular guy—chicks dig me. You'd better show more respect where I'm concerned. I'm not always gonna be around to service your needs if you keep being rude to me."

He laughs seeing her reaction.

"A guy can get really tired of such rude behavior from one of his girls—might have to look elsewhere for attention."

Andrea nods in agreement as he takes her hand and leads her down the hallway while he quickly yanks off his T-shirt.

**19**

Rebecca glances through the partly open curtain as David walks to his car and then drives away. She looks at the driveway again and seems confused. She sighs loudly and shrugs.

"How come he's not upset about Melissa?"

She glances at the driveway again.

"Could it be possible he didn't find my envelope?"

She seems upset.

"But I left it where he could find it?"

She notices Melissa tending to some flowers in the yard.

"Does she know I know?"

Rebecca seems frightened at that moment.

**20**

**Santa Ynez**

Gail watches as the plane taxies down a runway. She smiles broadly. She turns away as the plane goes airborne.

"I hope she enjoys her trip to Boston."

She slowly walks back into a small terminal.

**21**

Simon slowly leans back in his chair as he faces Colin. They seem engrossed in what Robert is describing. Graphic murder-scene photographs are scattered across Colin's desk.

"The corpse's hand was broken in four places."

He points at one of the photographs.

"Suffered multiple lacerations from some sort of sharp object —victim's chest was crushed—painful way to die."

He faces Colin again.

"Poor kid suffered greatly no doubt."

Simon leans against Colin's desk.

"This freak won't stop."

He sighs loudly.

"Kid just turned eighteen last month."

Colin reacts.

"We have to nail this fucker."

He looks over to Simon.

"Even if it's someone we know."

Robert turns to look at Colin. A few seconds later Colin's cell phone begins to ring. He picks it up and faces Simon.

**22**

"I hope you're still not mad at me?"

Tyler laughs as he glances over at Andrea. He winks.

"Things happen."

Andrea reaches out to touch Tyler's chest with her fingers and sighs loudly. She turns to look at him and smiles.

"I can't stay mad at you."

She kisses Tyler.

"I'm sorry I acted like such a bitch earlier."

She strokes his chest gently.

"But I just can't stand the idea of you being with other women. I want you all for myself. I'm selfish. I admit it."

Tyler laughs loudly.

"I'm not going to change."

He kisses Andrea.

"I'm a young healthy guy—and I've been sexually active since I turned sixteen. I've bedded plenty of women before and after I met you. You're just a number to me. Deal already."

Andrea wipes a tear from her eye.

"I'll try really hard to respect your wishes. I promise."

She seems about to cry.

"You deserve my respect—completely. I should be more concerned with your feelings after how badly Gail has treated you since you married her. I'll change—I swear I'll change."

"Uh-huh—we'll see. But be aware that you're on thin ice at the moment with me—one more mishap and we're done."

Tyler laughs as he grabs his shirt.

"I hope I made myself clear."

Andrea nods as Tyler walks to the door.

"I'll see you tomorrow."

Andrea nods.

## 23

"She didn't answer your call?"

David looks at the older woman standing across from him in the dimly lit hallway. Corinne Medway shakes her head.

"Three times I called and nothing."

She sighs loudly.

"Her rent was due today."

She seems upset as she glances at David.

"I thought maybe she was sick so I used my key."

She puts her hand over her mouth.

"She was—someone beat her up—badly."

David reaches for the doorknob.

"Is she dead?"

Corinne nods as the door swings open.

## 24

Astrid Thomas smirks as she leads Ben Allington toward a blanket spread out under a tree. He's blindfolded and seems nervous as he takes each step. Astrid laughs as they stop.

"What's going through your mind Ben?"

He waves his hand in the air.

"I'm sort of nervous."

Astrid leans over to kiss Ben on the lips.

"Worried about your safety?"

She kisses him again on the cheek.

"Thinking that I might be up to no good?"

Ben stifles a laugh and grins broadly.

"Did you bring me to the edge of a cliff or something?"

Astrid tugs at Ben's blindfold.

"Maybe I did."

She helps him sit down on the blanket.

"Things are never really what they appear."

She slowly unties the blindfold. He grins as he sees a picnic basket a few feet away. He leans over to kiss Astrid.

**25**

Father William grins broadly as he undresses April in front of a huge mirror in his bedroom. He laughs as she reacts to seeing his hand slide under her exposed breasts. He kisses her.

"Did you check yesterday?"

April nods.

"I'm still not pregnant."

Father William laughs loudly.

"We'll try a million times if we have to. But I swear you'll be with child really soon April—my child. He demands it."

He smirks as he kisses her again.

**26**

Andrea angrily clenches her fist as she closes the door and looks at her apartment. She walks over to her cell phone.

"I see that I have more work to do."

She seems upset.

"I think it's time I hire a private investigator."

She grabs the cell phone.

"I'll do whatever I have to do."

She grimaces.

"He belongs to me. Why can't he see that?"

She begins dialing.

"We belong together. I'm through letting him dally around with every damn slut in this town—enough is enough."

She walks toward the hallway and stops. She shuts off the cell phone and seems agitated as she steps into the kitchen.

"It's the way it should be."

She smirks slyly.

"Or else there'll be hell to pay."

She begins to laugh.

## 27

Rebecca rolls her eyes as she looks at a photo of Father William posted on a bulletin board in front of his church.

"He should be ashamed of himself."

She turns around and sees Marta Lopez looking at her.

"What did you just say?"

Rebecca looks at Marta curiously.

"I didn't see you standing there Marta."

Marta turns to look at the photo of Father William and notices Rebecca's hateful glare. She seems confused.

"I thought you liked Father William?"

Rebecca turns away from Marta.

"I never said I didn't."

"Did he do something?"

Rebecca faces Marta with a curious look.

"Like what?"

Marta shakes her head.

## 28
## Boston

Andrew hugs his mother as they look at each other. Maureen O'Bannon smiles broadly as she looks around at the massive terminal. She shakes her head and sighs loudly.

"This airport is gigantic."

Andrew laughs.

"Logan is quite the hub on the East Coast."

He takes Maureen's suitcase.

"I'm glad you came."

They look at each other again.

"So am I."

Maureen seems about to cry as she wipes a tear from her eye. She looks around at the massive terminal once more.

"I missed you so much."

They hug again.

**29**

David turns to look back at Corinne for several seconds. A few feet away Caroline's battered body lies by a large sofa.

"This makes number two."

Corinne's eyes dart back and forth.

"She was such a nice person."

She waves her hand.

"She never gave me any trouble."

David pulls out his cell phone and begins dialing.

**30**

Kyle shuts off his cell phone and seems bothered by something as he walks toward the front door of his office.

"Ocean Landing certainly has drama of late."

His cell phone begins to ring again.

"Can it be true?"

He pulls out his cell phone.

**31**

Rebecca shakes her head as she watches Marta walk down the sidewalk. She seems upset and glances at her watch.

"If she only knew what I know."

She begins walking across the street.

"I wouldn't have believed it if I hadn't seen it with my own two eyes—of all things—a priest and a married woman."

She stops and looks back at Marta again.

"Ugh. It just makes me sick."

Several people notice her behavior.

## 32

Christopher grins broadly as he takes a swig of beer and looks at the TV in front of him. He chuckles as he watches a body being carried out of a tiny boutique apartment building.

"That chick put up quite a fight."

He laughs.

"She tried to best me."

He takes another swig and grins.

"But it is what it is."

He stretches out on the sofa.

"It feels quite nice to be me right now."

He laughs again.

## 33

Laura Stryker glances at the aged newspaper displayed on the screen of one of the computers in a public library.

"It all ended after that."

She stares blankly at the huge headlines on the computer screen and becomes emotional. MAN DIES AT LANDMARK INN AFTER TRAGIC ACCIDENT. She sighs loudly and grimaces.

"It seems so unreal even now."

She flips through several more scanned images and then shuts off the computer. She stands up and looks around.

"I wonder if I made a terrible mistake coming back here."

She hears a sound behind her.

"I certainly hope not."

She turns around suddenly.

"Laura? Laura Stryker?"

Laura nods.

"I can't believe it's actually you."

They embrace warmly for a few minutes.

"I thought you left town years ago?"

"I did—my folks and I moved to Solvang."

She waves her hand.

"I then moved to Los Angeles for college and stayed."

Julia Mancini rolls her eyes.

"Hobnobbed with movie stars I bet."

Laura shakes her head.

"What about you? How's Wesley?"

Julia seems upset and sighs.

"Wesley got embroiled in a crooked real estate deal with Jacob Allington. That slimy bastard almost broke our family."

Julia waves her hand.

"He and his brother are pond scum."

Laura nods in agreement.

"Christopher certainly fits that description. I'll never forget what he did to Shelia Yang in fourth grade. It was horrible."

Julia shakes her head.

"It took her months to grow her hair out again."

She sighs loudly.

"Sheila's father sued Clifton Allington for two million dollars. They cleaned out Allington and his family royally."

Julia hides a smirk.

"Old man Allington died of cancer last year."

Laura shrugs.

"What about Jacob and Christopher?"

Julia makes a gesture with her finger and rolls her eyes as she seems disgusted by the mentioning of their names.

"Jacob lives in Morro Bay. Christopher is still in Ocean Landing mooching off anyone dumb enough to help him."

They look at each other.

"How long are you in town for?"

"I'm not sure."

Laura turns to look at the computer again. She seems bothered by the question for some reason. She sighs loudly.

"I just came on a dare more or less."

She glances at the front desk for a few seconds.

"It's been so long."

Julia nods in agreement.

## 34

"You will comply with my demands."

Tyler looks at Celine and grins as she stares at his stiff erection under his faded jeans. He presses his body against hers. He winks at her aware that she's helpless in his tight embrace.

"I want those stocks."

He grins broadly.

"48 hours and counting in case you forgot."

He slides his finger between her legs.

"Or your dumbass hubby finds out what we've been doing together. A picture is worth a thousand words. Explicit photos are worth even more. There's no way out. You'll do as I say."

Celine nods in agreement.

"I understand."

Tyler pushes Celine up against the stairwell.

"I won't be challenged."

She nods again.

"I'll get you what you want. I promise."

Tyler grins broadly.

"Consequences will be most severe I assure you."

He plows into her seconds later with any warning. Celine's moans echo throughout the stairwell for several minutes. He looks at her as he pulls out and laughs loudly. He makes a lewd gesture with his finger as he looks down at his exposed penis.

"I won't spare you for a moment."

He strokes her hand.

"If you fail I'll make you pay."

Celine looks at Tyler nervously.

"I'll get you the stocks."

Tyler winks slyly and points at Celine ominously.

"I will destroy your life if you don't deliver."

He pulls her toward him.

"Let's face it—your marriage is a sham. You and that old man have nothing in common—nothing except money."

Celine shakes her head in anguish.

"He's been nice to me."

"I've been nicer."

He looks down at his penis again.

"My penis has been especially nice to you as of late."

She nods in agreement.

"I'll get you those stocks—I swear."

Celine seems mesmerized by Tyler's erection.

"I love my husband dearly."

Tyler rolls his eyes.

"Whatever."

He watches as she kneels in front of him and mouths his stiff erection. He moans as her tongue dances on the head.

## 35

"This isn't going to end well."

Natalie MacDonald looks at the email and sighs loudly. She signs out and slowly turns away from the computer screen.

"He's playing a dangerous game."

She shakes her head and walks to the door just as her cell phone begins to ring. She looks at it and seems upset.

"What does he want?"

She rolls her eyes.

"Hello Daniel."

She sighs loudly.

"I haven't seen her today."

She rolls her eyes again and shrugs.

"Do I look like your social director? I told you I haven't seen her today. I don't know where she is at the moment."

She rolls her eyes at the phone. She seems upset as she glares at her cell phone. She sighs loudly several times.

"Goodbye Daniel."

She angrily shuts off her cell phone and seems annoyed. She gestures with her finger at the air and sighs once more.

"He's such a total zero. No future whatsoever."

She walks toward her car.

## 36

Carter watches as Brooke Tennyson and Cyril Spalding cross the street a few feet away in front of his parked car.

"Is everyone getting a piece but me?"

He shakes his head in dismay.

"Who hasn't that woman slept with yet?"

He makes a lewd gesture with his finger and smirks.

"I bet she visits a free clinic on a daily basis."

He sighs loudly as he watches her.

"It's a good thing her father isn't alive to see her spreading her legs for every horny guy on the prowl in Ocean Landing."

They enter a small diner at the end of the street.

## 37

A few cars zip by as Lana Collins helps Marta carry a few bulky packages from her car. Marta turns to look at Lana.

"Thank you for helping me."

Lana waves her hand.

"Glad to do it."

She winks.

"Besides, it's I that should be thanking you for all those baked goods you give my grandfather. He can't get enough."

Marta smiles broadly.

"He's a charmer."

They look at each other.

"That offer is still open if you want it Lana. I remember the great job you did a while back when I was sick with that cancer scare—always ready to help out with anything that came up."

Marta reaches out to gently touch Lana's hand.

"You'd make a fine front desk manager at the inn."

Lana glances at the inn.

"I'll let you know by the end of summer."

They hug briefly and then Lana watches as Marta walks around to the other end of the car and shuts the door.

## 38

"How is the book coming?"

Sandra turns around to look at Scott.

"I've hit a complete dead end with some info about Serena St. John—details on her background draw a total blank."

Scott seems confused.

"What are you talking about?"

Sandra sighs and turns to face Scott.

"Most of the guests on Tristan Montgomery Bell's yacht had a reason for being there—including me. But I've hit a brick wall when it comes to Serena and why she was on board."

Scott reaches out to kiss Sandra and grins.

"Maybe she hired by the old man to seduce his son?"

Sandra rolls her eyes mockingly.

"Ugh—that's gross."

Sandra faces the computer again.

## 39

Brooke pulls into the driveway of her home and steps out of her car. Several cars away someone is watching her. Fingers tap nervously on the steering wheel for a few seconds.

# TO BE CONTINUED

## A Brief Look at the Fifth Episode

Lives begin to come apart as schemes begin to unravel while a murderer stalks Ocean Landing. No one is safe as precious moments are few and citizens begin to wonder if one of their own is a cold-blooded killer while the body count continues to rise.

## Episode 5
# Painted Images

**1**

"I feel guilty about being with you."

Nancy Baker pulls away from Daniel Williams as he looks at her with a confused look. She climbs out of bed and walks to the window. She turns to face Daniel. She seems upset.

"Jill is my friend."

Daniel watches as Nancy grabs a robe and slips it on and then sits by the window. He climbs out of bed and sighs.

"Jill and I are over. She dumped me. It's not like you're seeing me on the sly. You said she told you it was OK."

Nancy runs her fingers through her hair.

"I know—but I still feel weird about being with you."

Daniel walks over to Nancy.

"Do you want me to leave?"

Nancy faces Daniel.

"No—I don't know—I'm conflicted."

Daniel reaches out to Nancy.

"I'll leave if you want me to—just say the word."

She seems upset as she reaches out to touch his cheek.

"Maybe it might be best if we cool things."

She sighs loudly.

"It's not like we're really a couple—we're just friends."

Daniel watches Nancy curiously for a few seconds and walks back to the bed and pulls on his Levi's and T-shirt. He faces her briefly before walking out the bedroom door in silence.

**2**

"I don't want you seeing that boy again. His family is trouble. He's trouble. His uncle has been in and out of jail his entire life—I don't want you tainted by that damn family."

Dexter Thomas takes a sip from the iced tea in his hand as he looks at his daughter cautiously. She seems upset.

"Ben is nothing like his uncle. He's sweet. He's kind. He's nice. I won't stop seeing him—no matter what you say."

Astrid Thomas reaches for the doorknob.

"I'm not a little girl anymore. I can make my own decisions about who I like and don't like. Ben is the best thing that's ever happened to me. He treats me like I matter. *I love him*."

She leaves without saying another word. As the front door slams Dexter takes another sip of the iced tea in his hand and stands. He reaches for his cell phone and sighs loudly.

"That stupid boy had better not step out of line or I'll have to teach him a lesson—a very painful lesson if need be."

He begins dialing seconds later.

## One Day Later

**3**

Robert Widdemer slowly pulls the zipper shut on a body bag and faces Colin Baxter and Simon Andrews. He glances at the ravine where a corpse was retrieved a few moments ago.

"Brooke Tennyson."

He seems upset and lowers his voice.

"We've got a real problem now."

He watches the body bag being placed in the back of the coroner's van nearby. He faces Colin and Simon once more.

"She was one of us. Whoever killed her is out there stalking their next victim—and it's no longer random stray hitchhikers or hookers. Ocean Landing is the target now."

Colin slides his fingers through his hair.

"Run every test needed—we've got to catch this nutcase before he—or she strikes again. Keep this quiet until further notice—certainly don't want the townspeople freaking out."

Robert nods and begins climbing up the rocky ledge leading to the highway. Colin and Simon look at each other.

"We may need help with this situation."

"Got any ideas who it might be?"

Colin shakes his head.

"Ocean Landing has its share of characters."

He sighs loudly.

## 4

"Thank you for a job well done."

Andrea Byron watches Christopher Allington closely as she hands him a large envelope. He looks at her curiously.

"I assume I don't have to count."

Andrea rolls her eyes.

"Count it if you like—it's all there."

She looks at the newspaper lying on the coffee table nearby. Andrea smirks as she faces Christopher once more.

"Carrie's death was not planned, but hey, it works for me just the same. Of course getting rid of that loathsome whore Caroline was certainly news to celebrate. The nerve of that slut to think she could steal my man without being punished. But there's still the burning question of what to do about Gail Latimer."

Christopher grins slyly.

"I could engineer another accident later today."

Andrea waves her hand in the air.

"I'll deal with Gail on my own soon enough."

She looks at the door and sighs.

"Maybe it might be a good idea for you to leave town for the time being—at least until all the hoopla goes away."

Christopher shoots Andrea a suspicious look and sighs.

"Sounds like you're trying to get rid of me."

Andrea turns away from Christopher.

"Believe what you want—I'm just trying to be helpful."

Christopher watches as Andrea walks toward the balcony of her apartment. He follows her. She stops and faces him.

"I thought I made myself clear."

Christopher reacts.

"Oh, I get it now—you're done with me because I've done the dirty work you needed done—now I'm just nothing."

Andrea rolls her eyes again.

"Those are your words not mine."

Christopher grabs Andrea's arm and spins her around.

"We're done when I say we're done."

Andrea jerks free of Christopher's grip and pushes him backwards. He lunges at her and in the ensuing struggle Andrea trips on one of the potted plants nearby and hits her head on the metal railing. Christopher looks at Andrea and smiles broadly.

"I've been paid—no reason not to finish off loose ends that might come back to bite me in the ass later—sorry Andrea."

With hardly much effort he pulls Andrea to her feet and with a grin he pushes her forward. As she falls from the balcony she awakens briefly and screams—seconds before she hits the pavement twenty stories below with a shattering thud.

"I guess Andrea was right after all—might be a good time to leave town—at least until this situation solves itself."

He walks back into Andrea's apartment.

"Too bad she turned on me—we could've made quite the team—would've worked too if it wasn't for Tyler Hernandez."

He clenches his fist.

"He ruined everything."

He stops and looks back at the balcony.

"What's that fool got that I don't? Why was she willing to throw me over so quickly for that frigging jerk—fucking loser is married for God's sakes—married to a decent woman."

He looks at his cell phone.

"I wonder what he would do if photographs of him and Andrea suddenly made their way to his wife's cell phone."

He laughs.

"Oops."

He clicks send and grins.

**5**

"I just saw the coroner pull up."

Jill Edmondson stands by the window and looks at her cell phone. She strains to see what is happening down the street.

"I'm telling you—there's been another."

She walks back into the office.

"I'm going over to talk to them right now."

She shakes her head.

"Uh-huh—I know they'll play that game—but I'll fish the information I need out of them just the same. There's a serial killer on the loose in town—they know it and I know it."

She nods again.

"I'll keep you updated."

She shuts off her cell phone.

**6**

"I don't care what he says."

Astrid looks at Ben Allington as he continues to play with one of the stray cats crowded around him as he dumps food onto a large tray. He faces her as she stands up. She sighs.

"He has no idea what he's talking about."

Ben finishes feeding the cats and walks over to her.

"I could go talk to him if you want?"

Astrid waves her hand in the air and shrugs.

"It wouldn't do any good. He thinks you're bad news. He said your family is nothing but trouble—said your uncle is a bad influence—made it quite clear I was to stay away from you."

Astrid reaches out and hugs Ben warmly.

"But I won't."

Ben sighs.

"Maybe I shouldn't have pretended to be troubled?"

Astrid hugs Ben again.

"No one believes you're troubled."

They look at each other for a few seconds.

"Everyone has been pretending to be afraid of you."

Ben reacts to the revelation.

**7**

Ward Brady walks back and forth as he talks on the phone in the driveway of his new home. He seems visibly upset.

"There's nothing more to talk about."

He sighs loudly.

"You slept with my cousin—there's nothing more for us to discuss. Our marriage ended the minute you cheated."

He stops and looks at the house.

"My lawyer will handle everything from here onward. I think it would be best if you don't call me anymore Claire."

He makes a gesture with his hand.

"Goodbye Claire."

He shuts off the phone and turns around. He sees Larisa Lopez standing less than ten feet away. She tries to smile.

"I'm sorry for intruding."

Ward shakes his head and forces a smile.

"You're not intruding—just trying to deal with my ex-wife and the drama she and my cousin created earlier this year."

He wrings his hands and looks at the house. He seems deep in thought for a few seconds. He faces her once more.

"I could use some magic right about now."

Larisa glances at the house.

"Are you sure you really want to live way out here? Live in this huge house all by yourself? It could get pretty lonely."

Ward nods and grins.

"I'll be OK."

She watches as he walks up the driveway.

**8**

Nina Thurston smiles as she looks at the computer screen in front of her. She clicks on her bank account and sighs.

"I've done what I set out to do."

She looks around at her small apartment.

"This was too easy."

Her cell phone begins to buzz.

"That must be Christopher."

She smiles as she picks up the cell phone.

"Hi."

She rolls her eyes.

"I've been waiting for an hour now."

She seems annoyed as she listens to the voice on the other end of the line. She waves her hand several times.

"OK—OK—I'm on my way."

She watches as the screen goes blank.

"He had better not let me down again like before."

She sighs loudly and looks at her watch.

**9**

Rebecca Martin looks out her window and sees Father William and Melissa Kipling kissing at the back door of the Kipling home. Rebecca seems disgusted as they continue kissing.

"That whore has no shame whatsoever."

She looks at her cell phone.

"David really should know the kind of woman he's married too—shameless hussy—and with a priest of all people."

She picks up the cell phone and looks at it.

"I'm not sure what happened to the envelope I left on David's car—but if he didn't find it—then who did?"

Rebecca turns to look at the Kipling house again.

**10**

Gail Hernandez looks at the images on her cell phone and begins to cry. She angrily throws the cell phone on the sofa.

"How could he?"

She notices a photo of her and Tyler together.

"It was all a lie—a horrible lie."

She grabs the photo and throws it against the wall. As it shatters in several pieces she angrily grabs other objects from a nearby table and begins throwing things wildly at the wall. She screams loudly for several seconds as her anger increases.

**11**

"Suicide is never a pretty picture."

Simon looks at Robert as he pulls a sheet over Andrea's face. He turns to face the crowd gathered. He seems upset.

"Show's over folks."

They stare at him curiously as he turns around to face Robert again. Simon looks up toward the balcony and shrugs.

"No one saw anything—nothing until she hit the sidewalk like a ton of bricks. There was a wind blowing when she took her last bow—if she screamed no one heard a thing—so sad."

He looks at the covered body again.

"Victim's name was Andrea Byron—owned real estate that she inherited from her mother who died late last year."

Simon scratches his chin.

"Depression probably got the best of her."

Robert nods and notices a broken cell phone a few feet away. Simon notices his gaze and walks over to where the broken cell phone is lying. He picks it up and seems dismayed.

"It must have fallen from her hand as she jumped."

He looks up at the balcony again.

"Oh well—I guess we'll learn more about her social circle when we go through the calls. Might help solve why she decided her life wasn't worth living anymore—or so I hope anyway."

Robert walks over to the coroner's van and pulls out a body bag. He seems in a daze as he walks toward the body.

## 12

"How's the proud papa to be?"

Todd Zimmer gives Alan Wong a harsh stare as he gets into Alan's car and then slams the door shut. He shrugs.

"Serena made it clear she's not getting an abortion."

He waves his hand in the air.

"I'm stuck with the deal whether I like it or not."

Alan rolls his eyes.

"You're acting like it's the end of the world—there are worst things than fatherhood—like never getting laid."

Todd laughs.

"Donna shot you down again?"

Alan winces.

"She said she wasn't ready—she made it clear we were just friends until further notice. I'm the only male virgin left in our senior class—it's really pathetic. I can't score to save my life."

Todd makes a lewd gesture with his finger.

"You always have other options."

Alan reacts.

"I'm not losing my virginity to a hooker."

He sighs loudly.

"I've got more class than that—besides I want my first time to be with someone my own age—someone like me."

Todd makes a lewd gesture again with his finger.

"Good luck on that front—most of the girls in Ocean Landing have been around the block a few hundred times."

He laughs loudly.

"I should know—I've scored plenty."

He reaches over to shove Alan.

"Cheer up buddy—maybe you'll get lucky on prom night."

He laughs again and points at Alan.

"Maybe Donna will change her mind and put out."

Alan rolls his eyes.

"Fat chance of that happening—she never changes her mind once she makes a decision. Why do you think she's on the debate team? She's not easily swayed—I'm so screwed."

He wipes sweat from his brow.

"I've just got to face it—I'm going to be the only virgin in my freshman year at college—I'll be teased mercilessly."

Todd notices Alan's pain and reaches out to pat Alan on the shoulder. They look at each other for a few minutes.

"Hey, I'm sorry I teased you earlier."

Alan shrugs.

"I'm a freak—a total loser."

He seems upset.

## 13

"You certainly took your sweet time?"

Christopher glances at Nina with a disgusted look on his face as she gets into his car. She seems upset. He sighs.

"I had stuff to do—give me a break already. It wasn't like you gave me much time to plan ahead—plenty loose ends."

Nina rolls her eyes knowingly.

"Forget it—let us get the hell out of this town already."

She looks over her shoulder at the two suitcases lying in the backseat. She faces Christopher again and shrugs.

"When we get to San Francisco I have to go shopping."

Christopher makes a gesture with his hand.

"What's with women and shopping?"

He waves his hand in the air.

"Like fuck shopping already, OK—you women always want to frigging shop—what's the deal with that anyway?"

Nina reacts. Her rage is evident.

"I had to leave everything behind—courtesy of the mess you created and made me a part of—with your wily ways."

Christopher grins.

"I didn't hear you throwing a fit when I was between your legs—in fact I recall you being really happy—joyous."

Nina rolls her eyes and sighs.

"You got me drunk that night—played on my being too weak to fight you off—and then you worked your magic."

Christopher licks his lips.

"Uh-huh—keep telling yourself that."

He glances at his watch.

"What about your mother?"

Nina seems upset.

"She's clueless about my behavior."

Nina reaches out to touch Christopher's hand.

"She thinks we're married."

Christopher laughs.

"Sweet deal—I guess she won't have any issues with us sleeping in the same room—smart move on your part."

Nina jabs Christopher.

"I expect nothing but the best behavior from you when we show up in the driveway of my mother's home in an hour."

Christopher grins slyly.

"We'll see."

He makes a lewd gesture with his finger.

"It depends on how you treat me."

Nina notices Christopher's erection. He grins broadly as he begins to unzip his jeans. He licks his lips several times.

"I think we should pull over."

Nina gives Christopher a dirty look.

"We're already late."

Christopher reaches out to Nina and smirks.

"I insist."

Nina gives him a curious look as he pulls the car over by the side of the road seconds later. Christopher leers at her.

## 14

"What the fuck?"

Tyler Hernandez looks at Greg Williams as he wolfs down another cheeseburger. Greg shakes his head and sighs.

"Apparently she took a header off the balcony earlier."

Tyler runs his fingers through his hair.

"Damn it—she was a pain in the ass most of time—but I'd never have guessed she would want to end it all that way."

Greg swallows another mouthful of beer.

"Hey, I know the two of you had a thing way back when in the day—before you got tied down with Gail Latimer. I assumed she had gotten over you and moved on—maybe not. Sorry."

Tyler looks at Greg curiously.

"You think she killed herself because I tossed her aside for Gail? That's just fucked up Greg—fucked up even for you."

He looks at the potato wedges on his plate.

"Andrea was just one of my many *friends with benefits* deals. She knew we weren't serious—I told her so plenty of times whenever we'd hook-up—we had too much history for that."

Greg nods and gestures with his hand.

"Keep telling yourself that line if that makes you feel like a nice guy—but Andrea was like every other woman—they say one thing and mean another—it's just part of who they are."

He sighs loudly.

"Women always say when they meet a new guy they're fine with everything staying casual—but look at the magazines in their apartment and you'll find ones with weddings at the top of every stack—they can't help it—they all want a husband."

Tyler seems annoyed and stands up.

"I'm tired of this dribble—going to take a walk along the pier—got to work off those greasy cheeseburgers I just ate."

He walks away. Greg shrugs.

"Uh-huh—he feels guilty."

He takes another gulp of beer.

## 15

April Estes watches Father William as he zips up his pants and turns to leer at her. He winks slyly. She seems nervous.

"Are you going to come by tomorrow?"

Father William grins.

"God willing I'll be by around nine."

April nods.

"I'll be waiting."

Father William walks over to where April is standing and pulls her to him. She reacts as his erection presses against her thighs. He laughs and passionately kisses her. She sighs.

"A guy can't help it when he's horny."

He whispers a lewd comment in her ear and laughs loudly as she reacts to the remark. He lightly strokes her cheek.

"Things happen—wicked things."

He leads her back toward the bed and smiles.

## 16

Cyril Spalding looks at the cell phone in his hand and seems upset. He glances at the photo of Brooke Tennyson and reaches out to delete her profile from his phone. He sighs.

"I can't believe I'll never see her again."

He leans back in a wicker chair situated in the corner of an outdoor cafe. He looks at the bowl of soup in front of him.

"Who'd want to kill her?"

He looks at his cell phone again.

"Who could hate her that much that they'd kill her the way they did—she wasn't the nicest girl around but she didn't deserve to have someone rub her out like that—like a piece of trash."

He stands up and looks around. As he's about to leave he notices Jackie Woods coming toward him. She stops.

"Can I talk to you for a minute?"

Cyril nods in agreement.

## 17

Kyle Garland sits in a car down the street from the police station. He glances at a folder lying nearby. He shrugs.

"I wonder what they're hiding—something is going on no doubt—something big—those two have been really tight-lipped since Brooke's body was found—not so much as a peep."

He glances at the entrance of the police station again as his cell phone begins to buzz. He sighs loudly and shrugs.

## 18

Gail slams the door to her car and walks toward a drugstore a few feet away. As she heads toward the front door she sees Nancy coming toward her from the parking lot.

"Gail—is everything OK?"

Gail turns to face Nancy. She seems about to cry.

"Tyler and I are through."

Nancy seems shocked at the news.

"I thought you and Tyler were happy?"

Gail wipes a tear from her eye.

"I did too—until today."

She looks out at the parking lot.

"Tyler cheated on me."

Nancy reacts.

"I know he had a rep before I married him but I thought he loved me. He swore he'd be faithful to me. I guess he lied."

She wipes another tear from her eye.

"How could I have been so wrong about him? How could I have made such a mistake? I've always been so careful."

Nancy reaches out to hug Gail warmly.

"What are you going to do?"

Gail shrugs.

"I have no idea. Right now I just have to get rid of this headache—and go over to my mother's place on Stratford."

Nancy shakes her head.

"No way are you going to spend the next few days alone in that big house—come stay with me—at least until your mother returns from Boston—I've got plenty of room in my house."

Gail looks at the drugstore again.

"Are you sure? I don't want to intrude."

Nancy smirks.

"It'll be like old times."

Gail forces a smile.

## 19

Christopher grins as he looks at Nina. She grabs her skirt and shoots him a cruel glare. He ignores it and laughs.

"I couldn't help myself."

He looks out toward the bluffs.

"Hey, wasn't this where one of the bodies were found not long ago—heard it was quite the scene—blood everywhere."

Nina turns away from Christopher.

"Let's get out of here."

Christopher rolls his eyes.

"Relax already—we've got plenty of time to get to San Francisco before nightfall—plenty of time to go sightseeing."

He steps out of the car and begins making his way along the rocky precipice. Nina seems upset and remains seated in the car as she watches Christopher sprinting along the rocks.

"Maybe this wasn't such a good idea."

She sighs loudly.

"Maybe I should go back?"

She glances at Christopher again.

"I can beg Louise Wong for mercy? Tell her I was stupid and let Christopher play me for a fool. Maybe she'd understand and go easy on me? Perhaps even let the matter go without calling the cops—calling them to arrest me for stealing."

She hears a crackling sound coming from behind the car and as she turns around a fist smashes into her face.

Sandra King clicks send on her computer and smiles as she faces Scott Malone. He winks at her as he finishes off a hotdog.

"I hope your editor appreciates your diligence."

Sandra waves her hand.

"He does—he's been very supportive."

Scott rolls his eyes.

"Oh yeah I bet—especially since he has his eye on you."

Sandra pretends to slap Scott.

"He's been a perfect gentleman—besides, he's married with one kid—and another on the way. Leave it alone."

Scott rolls his eyes again.

"That's never stopped anyone before."

Sandra stands up.

"You've got nothing to be jealous about—I'm with you for the long haul—we've been through too much already."

Scott stands and walks over to Sandra. He gestures.

"I'm not jealous of that wimpy nerd."

He sighs loudly.

"He's got nothing on me."

He reaches out to pull Sandra to him.

"I bet he's a dud in bed."

He laughs.

"His wife probably had to tutor him in the sack."

Sandra shakes her head.

"I'm done with the insults Scott—how about we go for a walk—maybe pay Larisa a visit and see how she's doing?"

Scott grins broadly.

"She thinks I'm seriously handsome."

Sandra smiles and jabs Scott.

"She was just being polite."

Scott reacts.

"Is that your way or saying you're jealous if your friend finds me attractive—thinks I've got lots of game left in me."

Sandra kisses Scott.

"It seems to me you're asking for trouble if you keep persisting that my friend finds you hot—terrible trouble."

Scott grins and kisses Sandra.

"Got to make sure you're paying attention."

Sandra hugs Scott warmly.

"Oh, I'm paying attention all right."

She looks at Scott.

"I don't want anyone else."

They hug again.

"Especially not a man who's expecting his second child with his wife—Paul Vanderlyle *is* my boss *only*—period."

Scott grins and kisses Sandra.

"I'm holding you to that."

Sandra slides her fingers through Scott's hair and gently strokes his ear for a few seconds. She looks at her watch.

"How about we pay Larisa a visit?"

Scott nods and follows her to the door.

## 21

"This is certainly an interesting turn in events."

Carter Benning looks at the grainy photo in his hand and sighs loudly. He looks at the computer again and shrugs.

"I guess this is as good as it will get."

He looks at the photo closely.

"Why does this dude look so familiar?"

He looks at the photo again.

"Robert said he found the photo near one of the murder sites out by the highway—said he thought he recognized one of the guys in the photo and thought I might be of help."

He runs his fingers through his hair.

"Damn it—I'm drawing a blank. Photo must be at least five years old—give or take a few months either way I assume."

He rubs his eyes several times.

"Why does this person look so familiar?"

He glances at the photo again and sighs loudly.

"Robert is one sneaky guy—kept the photo secret from Colin and Simon—made some excuse about the fact he thinks they're not too good at their jobs lately. Their loss is my gain I guess—nevertheless it doesn't get me closer to figuring out where I've seen this frigging dude before—driving me crazy trying to come up with an answer—could this be the serial killer?"

He looks at the empty office and sighs.

"Or is this one of the victims?"

He runs his fingers through his hair again.

**22**

Nina's empty eyes stare back at her killer as her battered body is dragged from the car toward some shrubs nearby. The car is parked several yards from the highway and hidden from view as her feet drags limply behind her on the rocky ground.

**23**

"I should've known better than to trust Andrea Byron."

Gail wipes a tear from her eye and shrugs.

"That damn whore would not let him go even after he dumped her for me. It hurts so much Nancy—I feel like such a fool to have believed Tyler when he said he would be faithful. He lied to my face on my wedding day when he promised to be true."

Nancy reaches out to comfort Gail.

"You're better off knowing now before you wasted more years with Tyler. He's a dog—plain and simple—useless."

She sighs loudly.

"You deserve someone better."

Gail faces Nancy.

"I ought to confront that bitch and let her have a piece of my mind—cause a scene to shame her in front of her neighbors at that swanky apartment building she lives at—*damn her*."

Nancy shakes her head several times.

"Stooping to her level won't change anything."

Nancy stands up.

"Andrea revels in boyfriend stealing—she had a bad rep in high school for sleeping around—her antics on prom night remain the topic of conversation even now fifteen years later—like seriously what girl has sex with the father of her prom date in the backseat of her car when her date goes to use the bathroom. It was quite the scandal if I recall—police even got involved."

Gail seems shocked.

"I was away at Chadwick Prep during this time."

She wipes a tear from her eye.

"I had no idea she led such a trashy life."

Gail sighs loudly.

"If Andrea wants Tyler she can have him—he's all hers."

Nancy walks toward the kitchen and stops. She turns around to face Gail with a sly look on her face. She grins.

"How about I make you a banana split?"

Gail brightens up immediately.

## 24

Christopher glances up from the rocky ledge and calls out to Nina several times. There is no answer. He sighs.

"I hope that bitch doesn't get it into her head to double cross me after the fact—I've killed three people already—one more won't make much of a difference to me—ripping off Louise Wong was my idea anyway—Nina only did what she was told."

He calls out again.

"I swear when I get my hands on her."

He begins climbing and stops. Several yards away he sees a man standing on one of the rocks. He smiles broadly.

"Never thought I'd see someone like you out here?"

They look at each other.

"What are you doing here anyway?"

Without warning the figure brandishes a gun. Christopher notices and reacts. He cautiously begins to back away.

"Is this some sort of a sick joke?"

Less than a second later Christopher lies between several huge boulders with two bullet holes in his forehead.

**25**

Larisa closes the door to the house and follows Ward to the driveway. He stops and faces her. He seems nervous.

"I was thinking—how—how about we go for a drive?"

Larisa looks at Ward curiously.

"I'd love to—but I have stuff to take care of in town."

He seems disappointed. She notices.

"How about you come over for dinner tomorrow—my mother makes the best meatloaf in Ocean Landing—I guarantee you'll leave several pounds heavier—possibly ten or more."

Ward laughs.

"Sure. Why not—I'm game."

Larisa smiles broadly.

**26**

A lone figure shuts the door to Nina's car and slowly walks away. As he heads to his own car he stuffs an envelope filled with money in the back pocket of his Levi's. He looks back once at the scene and then gets into his car. He starts the engine.

**27**

"I wish I could've been more helpful to you—sorry."

Cyril sighs loudly as he hugs Jackie.

"Carrie and I parted ways a while back—she was seeing someone else as far as I know—said he was married."

Jackie recoils.

"I warned her so many times."

She turns away.

"I told her she'd get burned sooner or later if she continued to sleep with guys that were out of her reach."

She seems about to cry.

"I just never thought someone would kill her."

She looks at Cyril again.

"If you hear anything, please call me."

Cyril nods.

"I will."

Cyril watches as Jackie walks toward her car. He shakes his head several times before he walks to his own car.

## 28

"How about you come for dinner tonight?"

Larisa glances at Sandra and Scott as they look at each other. She reaches out and takes Sandra's hand. She grins.

"It'll be like old times."

Sandra smiles and looks at Scott again. He nods.

"When do you want us to come by?"

Larisa grins and faces Sandra.

## 29

Melissa looks at the pregnancy kit in her hand and sighs loudly. She seems upset and throws it in the trash. She walks into the kitchen and looks out the window. She clenches her hands as she stands there for a few seconds. She slowly turns away.

"That busybody better mind her own business from now on. Next time I won't be so nice about what she tried to do."

She glances at the envelope in the trash.

"If David had found it—our marriage would be over."

She clenches her fist again.

"Damn her for trying to interfere. Who does she think she is anyway? She hardly knows David. Hardly ever talks to us."

She turns to face the window again.

"Rebecca Martin had better watch her step with me or I'll give her something really unpleasant to think about."

She nervously turns to look at the trash and sighs.

## 30

Lana Collins grabs a bag of pastries and heads out the front door of a small bakery. As she closes the door behind her and turns the corner she collides with Cyril. She shrugs.

"Why don't you watch where you're going next time?"

Cyril rolls his eyes.

"I could say the same for you."

She gives him a harsh stare and turns away.

"Say hi to Brooke for me."

Lana notices Cyril's reaction.

"I heard the two of you are an item now."

Cyril seems upset.

"I know you're still angry about what I did to you but that comment about Brooke is really uncalled for—especially with what just happened—even for you it's quite a low blow."

Lana turns around.

"What are you talking about?"

Cyril wipes sweat from his brow.

"Brooke was murdered."

Lana reacts.

"What?"

Cyril leans against the wall.

"Someone killed her out by the highway."

He looks back at the bakery.

"Simon told me—he wanted to know if I might have an idea about who'd want to kill her—her neck was broken."

Lana looks at Cyril suspiciously.

"You didn't kill her did you?"

Cyril rolls his eyes.

"I know I cheated on you for years before you caught me in your bed with your sister—cheated on every girlfriend I've ever had actually—treated you like dirt no doubt—but I'm not a killer no matter what you want to believe—it's just not my style."

Lana looks at him closely.

## 31

Simon waves to David Kipling as he comes over to where Simon is standing. Robert follows close behind. They stop.

"Seems our friendly serial killer has struck again—killed two of our own this time—not a pleasant sight to behold."

Simon grimaces.

"Nina Thurston is over by the bushes to the right and Christopher Allington is down on the rocks. Nina's body is pretty messed up. She was beaten to a bloody pulp before her neck was broken—Christopher was shot twice in the head. Neither had a chance to escape their killer—I think unlike the others these two were targeted—targeted and stalked—and then killed."

Simon sighs loudly.

"Ocean Landing of late has been the scene of several deaths—first Brooke Tennyson earlier today—then the suicide of Andrea Byron several hours ago—now Nina and Christopher."

David looks over the bluff and seems about to gag.

"Christopher and I go way back."

He glances at Robert.

"We caused our share of mischief throughout high school and college—he was a handful no doubt—but I could never imagine he'd end up a murder victim—life sucks sometimes."

Simon and Robert look at each other.

"Who's gonna call Jacob?"

David sighs and pulls out his cell phone.

"I guess that's my job—not one I want by the way."

Simon nods and walks toward the bushes. Robert follows with a body bag. As they walk they notice the area seems trampled over. Simon stops and looks at the area. He shrugs.

"I assume she was dragged from the car afterwards."

They reach where Nina's body is lying. Simon reacts at seeing Nina's battered body and turns to face Robert.

"Whoever did this is really angry."

Robert wipes sweat from his brow and nods.

"Probably has a string of murders dating back years—all of which leads to someone with a troubled past—quite the mystery and not in a good way if I do say—plenty of possibilities."

They nod in agreement and then face the rocks again.

## 32

Tyler looks at his cell phone again as it begins to ring continuously and seems annoyed. He turns to look at Chelsea Bogard positioned between his legs giving him a blowjob.

"I'm really losing patience with that wife of mine. You'd think she would get the message that I don't want to talk."

He makes a lewd gesture with his finger.

"She is such a downer."

He rolls his eyes seeing Chelsea's mouth overflow with semen as he begins ejaculating. He winks slyly at her.

"Your husband is a fool—seriously what guy would rather work two towns away than be with his beautiful wife?"

He comes a second time.

"Oh well, when the cat's away—the mice will play."

He laughs loudly.

"It was nice of you to call and invite me over at the last minute—I had some bad news earlier but I'm over it now."

Chelsea wipes her mouth with a napkin and stands.

"I heard about Andrea—I knew how tight the two of you were—thought you might need company—especially with how Andrea died—so sad that she took her own life—sad indeed."

Tyler makes a gesture with his hand as he zips up his Levi's and stretches out on the sofa. He licks his lips seductively.

"It was weird at first—but life is for the living."

He laughs as he pulls Chelsea toward him.

"If only Gail would take a hint and jump off the nearest skyscraper—fat chance she'd ever do something so noble."

He kisses Chelsea passionately.

"How about we make use of your bed?"

Chelsea nods and stands. She takes Tyler's hand.

"You've got me in a really bad place."

He laughs loudly and wags his finger at her. They walk toward the hallway. Tyler begins whistling as he walks.

**33**

Lana watches in shock as Jill reports on the death of Nina Thurston and Christopher Allington. She gasps out loud as their photographs appear on screen. She immediately begins texting on her cell phone as the murders are described in detail.

**34**

Simon watches as the coroner's van pulls away from the curb. He turns to look at Jill standing a few feet away. He seems upset and shakes his head. She notices and rushes over to him with a cameraman. Grant Viego aggressively shoves the camera in Simon's face. Jill blocks him as he tries to walk away.

# TO BE CONTINUED

## A Brief Look at the Sixth Episode

Secrets threaten more than one life as an unstable serial killer makes his presence known in Ocean Landing as other events play out with terrible consequences changing several lives forever.

## Episode 6
# Darkness Falls

**1**

"I could never say no to you."

Chelsea Bogard kisses Tyler Hernandez passionately for a few seconds as he cups his hands under her breasts. He smirks.

"You were one of the first girls I fucked in the girl's restroom at Landing High. Once word got out about what we did I had offers for weeks. Every girl wanted me to fuck them."

He laughs slyly.

"I fucked so many girls over the next two weeks I lost count—got two pregnant if you recall—caused a scandal."

He makes a lewd gesture with his finger.

"You girls made it so easy—I never had to ask."

Chelsea kisses Tyler again. He grins.

"It was your own fault—you were just so charming."

Tyler pulls Chelsea close to him.

"I'm still quite charming at thirty-two."

Chelsea slides her fingers along Tyler's belt buckle.

"You still have quite a hold over me."

She looks at him.

"I'm really sorry that Andrea took her own life."

Tyler waves his hand in the air.

"Old news—I'm over her already."

He laughs loudly.

"Besides, tomorrow is a brand new day. Especially since Gail and I are through. She texted me a really pathetic message earlier—dumping me after she found out I cheated on her—didn't say how she found out—but whatever—like I care—I'm just glad she's out of my life. I should never have gotten married."

He kisses Chelsea again.

"She cramped my style in the worst way."

He looks at his watch and seems somewhat bothered.

"I've got to go—I'll call you later."

Tyler walks to the door.

"Thanks again."

Chelsea nods.

## 2

Laura Stryker walks into the lobby as Enrique Lopez looks up from the computer. He smiles broadly when he sees her.

"How was your day?"

Laura shakes her head.

"It was interesting."

She looks at Enrique curiously.

"As I was coming back from the library I saw a coroner's van headed out toward Larkspur Point—seemed in a rush."

He gestures with his hand as he looks at a few guests standing near the bay window looking out at the street.

"I think there's been another murder."

Laura seems upset.

"How many has there been so far?"

Enrique shrugs.

"I'm not sure exactly—ten maybe. It's hard to know for sure with all the tales that are being spread at this moment."

He notices a few people entering the lobby.

"News of a serial killer loose in Ocean Landing is certainly going to make people want to leave—as quickly as possible."

He leans closer to Laura.

"Rumors are rampant all over town."

Laura reacts.

**3**

"I thought I told you to stay away from that boy."

Dexter Thomas watches as his daughter shuts the kitchen door as she enters. He stands up and walks over to where she's standing with her hands on her hips. Astrid Thomas sighs.

"I'm not going to stop seeing Ben."

Dexter glances at the door.

"That boy will bring you nothing but heartache."

Astrid rolls her eyes.

"You don't know anything about him—he's the nicest guy I've ever met. I can talk to him—we get along really well."

Dexter seems upset.

"Have you slept with him yet?"

Astrid reacts. Dexter grabs her arm.

"Well, have you?"

Astrid jerks free of her father's arm and shrugs.

"Not that it's any of your business—but no, we haven't slept together. Ben has been a gentleman each and every time we hang out. He's gentle and kind—very considerate."

Dexter rolls his eyes.

"Yeah, I'll just bet—the apple doesn't fall far from the tree with an Allington. His father is a convicted scam artist and his uncle is a lazy troublemaker who uses everyone around him. I doubt he's ever worked an honest day in his wretched life."

Astrid glares at her father.

"You don't know what you're talking about."

"I grew up with Jacob and Christopher—never a day went by that those two didn't get into some sort of trouble."

He cautiously looks at Astrid and sighs.

"They kept old man Andrews busy—sent him to an early grave with their antics—yep, those Allington brothers are peas in the same pod—and as your father I forbid you to see that boy anymore. From now on you're to stay clear of him or else."

Astrid shakes her head.

"Or else what—are you going to send me away?"

She waves her hand in the air.

"Send me away to a boarding school like you sent Elise last year. Sent her away to Chadwick Prep because you caught her having sex with Steve Steinway. Ugh, well go ahead."

Dexter wipes sweat from his brow.

"I had to do it—Steve Steinway had already fathered four children with several girls—I didn't want your sister's life to be ruined because of a troubled young man with no future."

Astrid takes a step toward her father.

"I won't end up like Elise. Ben isn't Steve. Not that it's any of your business—but Ben and I talk about sex all the time."

Dexter runs his fingers through his hair.

"That's right daddy—I'm not a little girl anymore. We talk about everything—there's nothing we haven't talked about. He's very smart in case you're wondering—I've learned so much from him since we started dating. Most importantly he loves animals like I do—especially cats. If you must know, every day he goes out and feeds all those strays by Rocky Cove. And yeah, we could've had sex already if he'd wanted to—but he's never pushed me to do anything I didn't want to. Told me he'll wait—wait until I'm ready—and right now I'm just not ready—Elsie I'm not."

Dexter seems shocked by the revelation.

"I stand by what I said."

Astrid rolls her eyes and shrugs.

"I'm not going to stop seeing Ben Allington."

She turns to leave and stops.

"Why don't you just give him a chance—rather than judging him on what his father and stupid uncle have done."

Dexter shakes his head and looks away.

"I just don't want you to get hurt. I love you."

Astrid walks over to her father and hugs him. He seems about to tear up as they look at each other. She sighs loudly.

"I know exactly what I'm doing."

She hugs him again.

"Why don't you invite Ben over for a visit?"

Dexter seems confused.

**4**

Celine Yarmouth looks at the computer screen in front of her and sighs loudly as she begins furiously tapping away at the keyboard of the laptop. She looks at the screen and shrugs.

"Paul won't miss a few stocks here and there—he's got so many already—it's not like he counts them every day."

She looks at the monitor again as several items disappear from the chart on the screen. She leans back and smiles.

"I had no choice in the matter—Tyler meant what he said—he'll gladly ruin me if I don't comply with his demands."

She licks her lips.

"He has a vindictive streak running through him."

She smiles slyly.

"But I just can't deny him anything—no matter how vile his actions seem—he knows he owns me—body and soul."

She sensuously licks her lips again.

**5**

David Kipling and Simon Andrews stare at the covered bodies a few feet away. They glance over at Robert Widdemer as he fills out a report. He glances at them every few seconds.

"I'm just about done with the report."

Simon's cell phone begins ringing nonstop. He looks at it nervously and sighs loudly. He faces David again with a smirk.

"Marlene must be really pissed at me."

David seems annoyed and waves his hand at Simon.

"Call your girlfriend already."

Simon stares at David curiously for a few seconds and slowly walks into the hallway. He begins talking to Marlene.

## 6
## Morro Bay

Jacob Allington gets into his car and pulls out of the driveway in a rush. He seems upset as he drives away.

## 7

"Christopher Allington is dead."

Greg Williams reels in shock as Cyril Spalding repeats what he just heard a few minutes ago. Greg sighs loudly.

"He was shot?"

Cyril nods.

"According to Kyle they found him dead out past Larkspur Point. He was shot twice in the head—executed like trash."

He wrings his hand nervously.

"They found Nina Thurston at Larkspur Point also. Her neck was broken—someone did a number on her from what I was told. She was beaten to a pulp—busted up really badly."

Greg leans back in his chair.

"I didn't know they were a couple?"

Cyril seems unimpressed.

"They've been screwing each other for a month now—of course knowing Christopher I bet she wasn't the only one."

Greg rolls his eyes.

"Isn't that the kettle calling the pot black? You have quite a checkered past yourself where women are concerned."

Cyril makes a gesture with his hand.

"Fuck off."

He stands up.

"I've got things to do."

He walks off as Greg stifles a smirk.

"Did I just hear right?"

Greg turns around to see Marlene Alderson standing a few feet away from him. She seems upset. He shrugs.

**8**

"I'll have it for you as soon as I can get it."

Tyler seems nervous as Anton Levitov circles him several times in a hotel room. Anton seems about to explode.

"I'm running out of patience with you Hernandez."

He circles Tyler again.

"I'm not the type of man you want to play games with if you want to remain healthy—I meant what I said last week."

He grins broadly.

"I *will* kill you if you fail to deliver."

He winks at Tyler.

"If I were you I'd make funeral plans."

He points to the door.

"Do not disappoint me again."

Tyler walks to the door without looking back. As the door closes Anton smirks and grabs his cell phone. Less than a second later the door opens again. Anton gestures with his hand.

"Keep an eye on Hernandez. Make sure he doesn't try to skip town. If he tries to skip—kill him—it's as simple as that."

He grins broadly.

"Keep me updated."

Kevin Kulkovich nods and leaves.

**9**

Melissa Kipling watches Rebecca Martin coldly as she walks down the sidewalk. She clenches her fist and sighs.

"Should I tell Father William about Rebecca? Should I let him know that she knows about us? What would he do?"

She sighs again and glances at her cell phone.

"If David found out I've been with Father William my marriage is over—he'd never forgive me for being unfaithful."

She turns to look at the sidewalk again.

"My marriage is hanging in the balance because of that sneaky old biddy next door—she has to be stopped—before she tells David about my indiscretions with Father William."

She looks at the cell phone again.

**10**

Astrid hugs her father warmly for a few seconds. They look at each other. She smiles and grabs her cell phone.

"I'll let Ben know right away."

Dexter watches Astrid as she begins dialing.

"I hope I'm not making a mistake."

He sighs loudly.

**11**

"I still can't believe you two were in the news. Everyone saw you guys being rescued. It was like watching a movie."

Scott Malone grins broadly as he looks at Larisa Lopez.

"We had no idea we were being filmed. It was only when we got back to St. Thomas we realized what was happening. There were several thousand people cheering on the waterfront as we landed. It was surreal. None of us knew what to say."

Sandra King jabs Scott.

"He loved every minute of it—spent an hour talking to reporters about what happened—wouldn't shut up."

Scott stifles a grin.

"Likely story says you—prove it."

Sandra rolls her eyes.

"How about we check out YouTube for clips?"

Larisa and Sandra face Scott.

"That's my story and I'm sticking to it."

Sandra jabs Scott again.

"The reality of what happened is seared in the memories of the six of us. It's something none of us will ever forget."

"Do you still keep in touch with the others?"

Scott shakes his head.

"We did for the first couple of weeks—but lately no."

He sighs loudly.

"Armand is still living in St. Thomas and so is Victoria de Hoya. I heard that Laura Wiley and Diana Munroe moved to New York—or was it Los Angeles? Laura was offered a small role in a movie version of our story—that's what she said anyway."

Larisa turns to look at Sandra.

"How come neither of you wrote a book about what happened—Amazon is filled with exciting true life stories."

Sandra makes a gesture with her hand.

"Actually I'm working on a book—got a ways to go before it's finished—lots of unanswered questions left to investigate."

Scott winks at Sandra.

"Several movie producers have already inquired about Sandra's book—this story is the gift that keeps giving."

He leans back in his chair.

"That said I'd much rather it never happened at all. We were lucky to have made it out alive—incredibly lucky."

He leans over to stroke Sandra's hair.

"The only good thing that happened on that island was meeting Sandra—she was different—challenged me plenty."

They hug warmly and then kiss lightly. They look at each other again and laugh. They kiss once more and grin.

"That's such a sweet thing to say."

Larisa wipes a tear from her eye and sighs.

"Maybe one day I'll meet someone who will make me feel special—someone who will ignore my many imperfections."

She seems upset.

"It's been a long time since I had someone in my life. I tried so hard but always came up short—especially lately."

Sandra looks at Scott and then at Larisa.

"It'll happen—when you least expect it. You can't plan these things—they just happen and then you'll know."

She looks at Scott and grins.

"When I met Scott it was not love at first sight. He was just another guy to me—then the incident at the island happened and it bonded us—from there it just sort of took on a life of its own and we realized how much we really enjoyed being together."

Scott rolls his eyes and faces Larisa.

"She's lying—she was hooked on me from the start. I have that impact on women—Sandra fell hard for me—couldn't stay away from me—I was just too charming for her to ignore."

"Keep telling yourself that lame story."

Scott grins broadly.

"I'll be back in a jiffy."

He stands and walks toward the bathroom.

"You're so lucky. He's such a nice guy—has a nice sense of humor too—doesn't take himself too seriously either."

"I don't know what I'd do without him. He's been there from the beginning—never letting me down. I wake up every morning and thank God for giving me incredible happiness."

Sandra glances at the bathroom.

"He's my rock."

Larisa seems envious.

**12**

On a plain-looking table hundreds of dollars are stacked carefully in small bundles. A hand reaches out to grab a stack. In the background sounds of someone whistling can be heard.

## The Next Day

**13**

A small procession of mourners follows a casket toward an open grave near several large trees. Jackie Woods leans against Gail Hernandez as they look at the casket in front of them.

"I'm always here for you if you need me."

Jackie looks at Gail and nods. They hug warmly.

"My mother wanted to be here—but she couldn't get back in time from Boston—she said she'd call you later today."

Jackie nods.

"No mother should ever have to bury their child."

She looks at the casket in front of her. Gail turns to look at her brother's grave a few feet away. She wipes a tear from her eye and faces Jackie again. She notices Cyril standing nearby with a weird look on his face. Not far away she notices April Estes standing near Father William. She turns and faces the casket again as a brisk wind suddenly whips up. Several vases of fresh flowers fall over. The casket shakes briefly as the wind finally dies down. Gail and Jackie look at each other. Jackie shrugs.

"Maybe that's Carrie's way of letting us know she's here with us—letting us know that she's not really dead after all."

Gail looks at Jackie curiously and nods.

## 14

"Listen, I'm telling you—it's someone we know."

Kyle Garland yells into his cell phone as he walks back and forth in his office. He stops briefly and shakes his fist in the air.

"Duh—of course I know that. Why did you think I called you? I need it verified. Do I have to spell everything out?"

He clenches his fist.

"Call me back in an hour."

He shuts off the phone and seems angry.

"Good help is so hard to find."

He glances at the door.

## 15

"According to Simon Andrews there was no money found with Nina's body—nothing. She probably wired it somewhere."

Louise Wong looks at Marlene blankly and seems upset as Marlene slowly walks toward the window. She turns around.

"Christopher Allington was with Nina."

Marlene sighs loudly.

"I bet he was the brains behind Nina's scheme."

She seems upset.

"Nina Thurston certainly was no criminal mastermind by any means—but Christopher Allington—that's another story."

She faces Louise.

"The money that Nina stole is probably in his bank account as we speak—or in some nearby offshore country."

She leans against the desk.

"I called my brother's college buddy ten minutes ago. He's checking as we speak for international bank accounts with Christopher's name—said it could take twenty-four hours."

Louise waves her hand and stands up.

"I guess I should call Nina's parents in San Francisco."

She stands for a few seconds staring at Marlene.

"I've decided not to tell them about what Nina did. No need to tarnish their daughter's reputation after the fact."

Marlene nods.

"I agree."

She watches Louise leave.

## 16

Natalie MacDonald watches her brother pack his belongings into two small leather suitcases. She sighs. Warren MacDonald turns to face her. He grins broadly as he slowly comes toward her. They hug briefly. He looks at his watch nervously.

"Why don't you come to Los Angeles with me?"

Natalie shakes her head.

"I don't like big cities. I'm just a small town girl."

Warren rolls his eyes and shrugs.

"Suit yourself. I'll call you tomorrow."

Natalie nods as she faces her brother and sighs.

"What about mom and dad? Aren't you going to say goodbye? You know how they'll get if you skip out on them without saying goodbye. They'll be in a mood for weeks."

Warren rolls his eyes again.

"I said my goodbyes one year ago when they cut me out of their lousy will—they made their choice—end of story."

He grabs a few more pieces of clothing and shoves it into one of the suitcases. He looks at Natalie again and smirks.

"Don't look so sad—it's not like Los Angeles is located in the other side of the country—I'm only a phone call away."

He grins broadly.

"Say goodbye to Lana Collins for me. Tell her I always liked her—even though she stood me up on prom night."

Natalie watches Warren as he heads for the door. She seems upset as he leaves. She turns away and begins to cry.

## 17

Tyler looks at Celine curiously as she hands him the computer printout. He glances at the printout and sighs.

"If this is some sort of joke?"

Celine shakes her head.

"It's all there. I wouldn't double cross you."

She sighs loudly.

"I kept my word—please don't tell Paul about us."

Tyler grins broadly.

"I'll think about it."

Celine reacts.

"You promised."

Tyler shoves the computer printout into the back pocket of his Levi's and walks to the door. He stops and faces her.

"I lied."

He leaves seconds later.

"He wouldn't—he wouldn't be that cruel."

Celine remains standing motionless for a few seconds as she absorbs the sad reality of what just happened. She glances at her cell phone lying on the coffee table several feet away.

"Maybe it's time Paul and I took an extended vacation."

She walks over to the cell phone and sighs.

## 18

"Roland Parker called me earlier. He's not giving up on that crazy Castle Beach story. He threatened me royally."

Sandra looks at Scott oddly.

"He threatened you?"

Scott grins.

"Uh-huh—he threatened me with a huge pay raise if I play along and head back to New York—Friday at the latest."

Sandra rolls her eyes.

"I guess you know what you have to do."

Scott seems confused.

"I do?"

Sandra nods.

"Book a flight back to the East Coast for Friday."

Scott wraps his arms around Sandra.

"Are you OK with it?"

She shakes her head. She pulls him toward her and they kiss. She runs her fingers through his hair and grins broadly.

"I'll meet you there on Sunday."

He hugs her once more.

## 19

Jesse Malinger watches Sabrina McCord as she jumps along the rocks while waves of ocean water spray her. She turns back to look at him standing several feet away. He shrugs.

"What if I fall into the drink?"

Sabrina rolls her eyes.

"Are you afraid of a little water? Or is it because you think there's something in the water—something with teeth."

Jesse ignores the comment and continues to stand there with a nervous look on his face. Sabrina looks at the rocks ahead of her and then begins to sprint across the huge boulders.

"Suit yourself if you please. I'm going."

Jesse watches her for a few seconds and then slowly follows her. He seems unsure of his actions as he's sprayed with water multiple times. Finally he makes his way along the slippery rocks. Sabrina stands on the sandy beach with her hands on her hips looking amused as he almost slips several times. As he reaches the sandy beach he sighs loudly and seems relieved.

"A coward I'm not."

She takes his hand and they begin walking along the beach. Sabrina stops and looks around. She seems pleased.

"This beach would make the perfect setting for a romantic comedy starring **Jean Harlow**. It's just so beautiful and quiet."

"I've never heard of her. Is she new?"

Sabrina pretends to slap Jesse.

"She was one of the most famous movie stars during the 1930s. She died tragically at twenty-six in June 1937."

Sabrina waves her hand in Jesse's face.

"I used to watch a lot of movies when I was younger."

She takes his hand again.

"There is a small cove over that way—no one can see us from the highway. Totally secluded—all the kids come here."

Jesse follows Sabrina down the beach.

"What if we run into the serial killer nutjob?"

Sabrina stops and faces Jesse.

"I'll protect you."

Jesse rolls his eyes.

## 20

Anton taps his fingers on the table as he looks at Kevin sitting across the room. He seems angry and stands up.

"I'm losing patience with Hernandez. His empty words mean nothing anymore. He's already ten minutes late."

He looks at his watch again. Seconds later there is a knock on the door. Tyler enters. He glances at Kevin nervously as Anton slowly comes toward him. He clenches his fists several times.

"Where are my stocks?"

Tyler pulls out the computer printout from the back pocket of his jeans. He hands it to Anton. Anton sighs.

"What the fuck is this crap?"

He suddenly grabs Tyler by the neck.

"Where are my stocks?"

Tyler tries to push Anton away—but Anton's grip only intensifies. His anger is clearly evident as he glares at Tyler.

"This is a printout showing the stocks in my account. It'll just take a few minutes to transfer them to your account."

Without warning Anton slams his fist into Tyler's temple and knocks him to the floor. He kicks him several times as his rage continues to grow. He looks at Kevin and then at Tyler.

"I asked you to get the stocks from Paul Yarmouth. I didn't ask for a damn fucking computer printout. I ought to kill you right now for this slight. Goddamn worthless loser you are."

He pulls out a gun from his jacket pocket.

"A bullet is what you deserve."

Tyler begins to plead for his life as Anton seems disgusted at the sloppy groveling. He viciously kicks Tyler several more times and looks at the gun in his hand again. He sighs loudly.

"There's just no road left for you to travel."

In a blind rage he rams his boot across Tyler's neck and begins stomping. Tyler cries out while Anton's rage only increases as he crushes Tyler's windpipe and shortly afterwards breaks his neck with the constant stomping. Realizing Tyler is dead he turns to look at Kevin and laughs. Kevin turns away as Anton smiles.

"We all have to go sometime, don't we? Today is Tyler's turn to meet his maker. He insulted me one too many times. I had to take action—my reputation depends on being respected."

Kevin stands and casually glances at Tyler's body.

"Where are we going to dump the corpse?"

Anton smirks.

"The city dump seems like as good a place as any."

He laughs loudly.

"No one will care one way or the other."

Kevin nods in agreement.

Sabrina leans over and begins to stroke Jesse's hand. He looks at her and seems unsure what to do. She smiles slyly.

"This is the moment where you try to kiss me."

Jesse shrugs.

"Is that so?"

Sabrina nods.

"Uh-huh."

They look at each other. Jesse hesitates.

"Well?"

Jesse shuffles his feet in the sand and turns away.

"Well what?"

Sabrina grabs Jesse's arm.

"Are you still a virgin?"

Jesse faces her.

"What if I was? What then?"

Sabrina smiles and slowly takes his hand again.

"There's always a first time for everything."

She pulls him closer to her.

"Are you afraid?"

Jesse rolls his eyes.

"I'm not afraid of anything."

Sabrina pulls Jesse close to her and grins.

"Prove it tough guy."

He seems uneasy and sighs loudly.

"Exactly how many guys have you been with Sabrina?"

Sabrina slowly pushes Jesse backwards until he is up against a nearby tree. He seems confused as she leans closer.

"Be gentle."

She gently squeezes his hand.

"I like you Jesse Malinger—stop making it harder than it has to be—I want to be with you—I *want* you. Deal OK."

Jesse looks at the empty beach.

"I'm just an average dude."

He kisses Sabrina. As their lips part they look at each other for a few seconds. They kiss several more times. He laughs.

"Well?"

Sabrina turns away.

"Hey?"

Sabrina turns to face Jesse. She seems upset.

"I guess I was wrong about you."

Jesse reacts.

"What's that supposed to mean?"

Sabrina begins laughing.

"Relax—I'm just fooling with you."

Jesse breathes a sigh of relief and watches nervously as Sabrina circles him. She slides her arms around his waist.

"I think you're gonna work out just fine—definitely boyfriend material as far as I can see. The only question left is do you want a girlfriend—one that is really sweet on you already."

Jesse wipes sweat from his brow.

"I'm game."

They kiss again.

## 22

Jacob Allington angrily looks at his ex-wife as she stands in the doorway of his former home. Alison Allington seems upset as she continues looking at him with a cold stare. She sighs.

"He doesn't want to see you."

Jacob runs his fingers through his hair.

"I'm his father. He doesn't get to ignore me."

Alison rolls her eyes.

"You should've thought about that before you shamed your family—insulted your son. I'm really sorry about what happened to Christopher—really I am—but that has nothing to do with Ben's refusal to see you. Let it alone for now. He's already upset—forcing the issue with Ben will just make it worse."

Jacob sighs loudly. He clenches his fist.

"I should've known you'd turn him against me."

He clenches his fists again and sighs.

"Damn bitch you are."

He looks at her one more time with a cold glare and turns to leave. He walks to his car and looks back at the house.

## 23

Laura is sitting on some rocks overlooking a small beach when she sees Enrique walking toward her from a parking lot several yards away. In his hand is a small brown paper bag.

"I thought you might like a snack."

Laura looks at him curiously.

"That's so sweet of you."

Enrique gestures with his hand.

"I'm actually on my lunch break for the next hour."

He looks around.

"I saw you come this way—thought you might like some company—but if you prefer to be alone—I'm fine with it."

Laura shakes her head.

"I could use some company right now."

She sighs loudly.

"I've had so many memories to unpack."

She glances at the bag.

"So many events to relive and face—but I'm doing it one step at a time—making sense of it all. It's really been quite therapeutic when all's said and done—pleasant actually."

"It must be weird seeing the inn now as opposed to when it all took place—especially since not much has really changed."

Laura nods and glances back at the parking lot.

"I think it was good for me—the bad dreams have stopped since I came back—closure heals all wounds I assume."

Enrique nods in agreement.

"I know that feeling all too well."

He runs his fingers through his hair.

"I had plenty of things that happened to me when I was younger that could've led me down the wrong path."

Laura looks at Enrique curiously.

"Do tell."

He laughs.

"It can wait—when the moment is right—right now this is about you and what happened to you way back when."

She gives Enrique an odd look.

## 24

"It wasn't so bad was it?"

Sabrina turns to look back at Jesse as they climb the rocks up the hill from the cove. He rolls his eyes and smirks slyly.

"It was nice."

He catches up with her and stops to look back as waves capped with white foam crash against the rocks. He sighs.

"I wonder how many ships sank off the coast of this town back in the day—the ocean floor must be littered with endless ships that met their grisly end on dark and gloomy nights."

Sabrina looks at Jesse oddly.

"Well, aren't you a downer all of a sudden."

He grins broadly.

"I've seen old pictures of Ocean Landing online."

He looks out at the ocean again.

"I bet bodies floated ashore every time a ship hit the rocks and broke apart. I bet the locals hated when that happened."

Sabrina reaches out to give Jesse a shove.

"I'm done talking about morbid stuff—if I wanted creepy I could reread that book I have about what happened to the cast of the original version of *Poltergeist*. First the actress who played the older sister was murdered—then her co-star died tragically. It made headlines during the 1980s. The deaths of both **Dominique Dunne** and **Heather O'Rourke** were a tacky tabloid's dream."

Jesse seems shocked and sighs loudly.

"The little blonde girl in the movie died? I thought she just retired from the movies and lived a normal life somewhere."

Sabrina shakes her head several times.

"She died in 1988. She was only twelve."

Jesse sighs loudly.

"Imagine dying that young—before you could really live your life the way you want to—it's just wrong—*so* wrong."

Sabrina nods and looks at the rocks again.

## 25

"I'm going to miss you."

Scott looks at Sandra and grins broadly.

"I hope so."

Sandra pulls Scott closer and kisses him. She slides her fingers through his hair as she kisses him again. He sighs.

"I need to tell you something."

Sandra looks at Scott curiously.

"Well?"

Scott hugs Sandra.

"It's just that since all that horrible stuff happened in the Caribbean I've come to realize for the first time in my life I'm actually happy to be alive. I love waking up every day next to you knowing you and I have something special—something that isn't based on crass lies or pity like so many other couples today."

Sandra seems about to cry. Scott notices.

"What's wrong?"

"I love how open you are with your feelings. It makes it so easy to love you. I wasn't sure when we began dating that you and I would work out—but I'm glad I got over the issues I had about you and was able to see past your endless faults to the wonderful man you are—and continue to be as you grow."

Scott grins broadly.

"I assume that means you're hung up on me."

Sandra kisses Scott again.

"Uh-huh—Larisa opened my eyes earlier."

Scott suddenly pulls Sandra to him again and laughs.

"She's definitely a smart woman no doubt—knows a good deal when she sees it in front of her—knows a hot dude."

Sandra yanks a lock of Scott's hair.

"I've got my eye on you."

She grins slyly.

"I see you still have that cocky demeanor."

Scott laughs.

"Deal with it already."

He looks at his watch briefly.

"I'll call when I get to New York."

She nods and kisses Scott again several times.

**26**

April nervously looks at Father William as he walks toward her. He pulls her against his naked body and grins broadly.

"I quite enjoyed what happened earlier."

He sighs loudly.

"Funerals are quite depressing as you know—but a nice bout of lovemaking makes up for it—especially when it means that a baby could be conceived after the fact—God willing."

April pulls away and looks at her watch.

"I've got to go—I'll call you later."

Father William nods. He watches her go and smirks as he looks at himself in the mirror. He admires his body for several seconds as he looks back at the soiled sheets on the bed.

"I guess I should've told her beforehand—told the others too for that matter that I'm sterile—oh well—too late now."

He begins laughing loudly.

"Women are so stupid."

He laughs again.

"This is just too easy."

He licks his lips several times.

**27**

Jill Edmondson watches as Colin Baxter comes toward her from the parking lot. He seems angry. She shrugs and sighs.

"I have nothing for you—same as yesterday."

Jill rolls her eyes and gives him a knowing look.

"There's been talk as you know. People should be told if one of their own is out there randomly killing—and not being held accountable for what they do because the local police—who are employees of the citizens of Ocean Landing, refuse to warn them that their fragile lives might be in danger—Brooke Tennyson comes to mind in case you forgot that she's no longer alive."

Colin seems annoyed at the statement.

"We're doing the best we can."

Jill shrugs.

"Tell it to Brooke Tennyson's uncle."

She angrily shoves her cell phone in his face. He notices the camera is turned on as he tries to back away from Jill.

## 28

Serena Jackson walks back and forth in a pavilion located at the corner of a small park across the street from a large used bookstore. She seems upset as she looks at her watch again.

"He said he'd come."

She sighs loudly and looks around nervously. The area seems deserted except for a few people walking down the sidewalk. She slowly faces the bookstore again and shrugs.

"I should have known he'd stand me up."

She turns to leave. From the corner of the street up ahead she sees Todd Zimmer walking toward her. He stops as he sees her and raises his hand. She notices a piece of clothing of some sort in his hand. She continues to stand at the entrance of the pavilion seemingly very upset. Seconds later he's standing in front of her. He notices her expression and waves the piece of clothing in front of him. She takes it and smiles broadly.

"You bought this for our baby?"

Todd shakes his head and laughs.

"This is mine—at least that's what I was told."

Serena wipes a tear from her eye and hugs Todd.

"I thought you'd changed your mind."

Todd waves his hand.

"I lost track of time trying to dig this out from the attic. So much crap up there—I thought I'd get smothered in all that crappy junk my mother threw in there like trash years ago."

He shakes his head as he looks at the piece of clothing in her hand. He gently reaches out to touch Serena's swollen stomach. They look at each other for several seconds.

"I know I've been a jerk—but this baby deal is growing on me—I'm actually looking forward to becoming a father."

Serena looks at Todd curiously.

"What about your parents?"

Todd rolls his hand and gestures.

"They're not happy about it—but they have begun to come around—it just takes time to adjust to a big shock."

He laughs.

"Especially when their teenage son comes clean about becoming an expectant father at sixteen—it was actually funny to see their reactions at first—but they're getting better at facing reality about the whole thing—at least that's what they say."

Serena looks at the piece of clothing again.

## 29
## Miami

Todd Whitney leans back in his chair and grins broadly as he looks at the computer in front of him. On the screen several lists of stocks are displayed as more stocks seem to be added as he watches. He slowly stands up and walks to a window overlooking the Miami skyline. He seems quite pleased.

"You Russian dudes know your game really well—never a moment when you haven't thought of something beforehand."

He nods several times as he turns away from the window and faces the computer again. He sighs loudly and smirks.

"What about Hernandez?"

He laughs loudly as he listens.

"Nice touch Levitov—stomping your victim to death is exactly how someone like Hernandez deserved to die. He wasn't as productive as he should have been—death was the only way to make right a wrong that he managed to create. I gather you got rid of the stiff? Tossed it somewhere where no one will look?"

Todd laughs loudly again.

"Perfect—I love how you think."

He sits down and looks at the computer again.

"I guess you know you can expect a huge bonus next week—extreme thanks from a very satisfied employer."

He nods again and grins.

**30**

Hailey Jackson closes a door and begins walking down the sidewalk. In her hand is a cake wrapped inside a tan-colored container. From behind her she hears footsteps and turns around but sees no one standing there. She continues walking again and hears footsteps once more. But no one is there when she turns around yet again. She seems afraid at this point and runs through a nearby alley. There is utter silence as she walks through the trash-filled area. She looks around nervously as she passes a few large rats feasting on moldy bread. She gags as she continues walking and then—without warning—she's grabbed from behind and screams in panicked fright as strong arms envelop her.

# TO BE CONTINUED

## A Brief Look at the Final Episode

A remorseless serial killer begins to lose control in the midst of being confronted for an unrelated event. It's a race against time to stop one of their own as the horrible truth is finally exposed due to a scratchy old photograph that holds many secrets.

## Episode 7
# Master of the Game

### 1

"I miss him already."

Larisa Lopez looks at Sandra King curiously as they walk into the small cafe. Larisa points toward Ward Brady sitting by a table in the far corner of the small restaurant. Sandra sighs.

"I think I'll give Scott a call."

Larisa rolls her eyes.

"He's probably asleep as we speak. His plane must be over the corn fields of Kansas at this moment. Let it alone."

Sandra glances at Ward.

"Is that him?"

Larisa nods.

"Uh-huh—he's so hot."

Sandra makes a gesture with her hand.

"Go over to him and talk a while—you won't know if you don't try—men are notorious for not figuring things out unless the women in their lives spell everything out for them."

Larisa gives Sandra a strange look.

"Is that how it was with Scott?"

Sandra laughs.

"He was as dense as they come—had no idea until I told him. He claimed later he knew all along but I don't buy it."

She smirks slyly.

"He's a typical guy—can never admit to not knowing something. I knew from the moment when we were rescued and he held me as we made our way back to St. Thomas that he was special—but it took him several days to figure it all out."

Larisa reaches out to touch Sandra's hand.

"I want to ask Ward out on a date—but what if he doesn't want to. I would be so crushed—especially since he wants me to decorate his new house. I would just die if he rejected me."

Sandra jabs Larisa.

"Ask him already and quit wondering—he seems really nice—and lonely too—a man can be easily convinced if you say the right things at the right moment—go ahead—ask him."

Larisa looks at Ward and then back at Sandra.

**2**

"This just can't be real."

Jacob Allington takes another swig of beer and looks around at the bar. He seems angry as he notices Cyril Spalding at the front door. He takes another swig and sighs loudly.

"Of great—that's just who I wanted to run into today."

He takes another gulp and shrugs.

"He's probably over the moon with joy that my brother met his maker—damn frigging prick. I ought to bust his face just for being alive instead of my brother—fucking loser."

He stands up and walks across the bar to where Cyril is sitting. They look at each other. Jacob clenches his fist.

"I guess Christopher being murdered makes you happy."

Cyril looks at Jacob and turns away.

"You said it I didn't."

Jacob grabs Cyril's arm.

"Was it you? Did you kill my brother?"

Cyril jerks free of Jacob's grip and pushes him away.

"I had nothing to do with what happened to your brother. I didn't like him I admit it—I don't like you for that matter either. But I'm no killer. Whoever killed your brother is still out there and looking for new victims—you'd better watch out Jacob."

Jacob takes a swing at Cyril.

"I'm going to clean the floor with you."

As Jacob tries to swing at Cyril again, a fist smashes into his face and he falls backwards. Cyril smirks as Jacob falls.

"What was that you were saying Jacob?"

Cyril walks away as Jacob pulls himself up and looks at several people standing nearby watching the drama unfold.

## 3

"How much longer do we wait?"

Grant Viego glances at Jill Edmondson as her reaction clearly shows she's irritated. She looks at the police station across the street and shrugs. She looks at the half-eaten sandwich lying in her lap. Grant turns to face her. He seems slightly upset.

"I asked you a question."

Jill sighs loudly.

"I don't know."

She looks at the police station again.

"They can't stay in there the entire night. They have to leave sooner or later. We've got to be patient—and ready."

Grant focuses his attention across the street.

"I'm done with waiting, OK—my girlfriend is pissed at me already. I don't want to sleep on the sofa again tonight."

Jill waves her hand in the air.

"Evelyn Middlebury thinks you and I have been fooling around on the sly—*that's* why she's pissed off—admit it."

Grant gives Jill a harsh look.

"But you and *I* aren't doing anything—nothing at all. We work together—period. I'm not the kind of guy that cheats."

Jill reaches out to touch Grant's hand.

"Do you want me to talk to Evelyn?"

Grant shakes his head.

"Leave it be."

Jill notices Simon Andrews and David Kipling leaving the police station and heading to a patrol car nearby. She suddenly jumps out of the car and runs toward them. They turn around.

"I waited. You owe me answers."

Simon and David look at Jill. They seem annoyed.

"We really don't have time for this right now."

Jill seems upset as they get into the patrol car and drive away. She quickly walks back toward where Grant is waiting.

"Let's go."

Grant reacts.

"I'm done."

She looks at Grant curiously.

**4**

"That woman never gives up."

Simon looks at David.

"I'm really getting tired of her antics."

David nods.

"Did you call Colin?"

Simon shakes his head and squints to see into the bright flashing lights up ahead facing the alley. He faces David.

"He was the one who called—he initially got a call from a homeless guy who happened upon a body looking for food."

They look at each other.

"Did the homeless guy say anything other than he found a dead body of a teenage girl in the alley? Did he see anything?"

Simon shakes his head again and sighs.

"He was royally freaked out—scared to death actually. He kept mumbling something about someone watching—seeing."

"Do you think he did it? Killed her?"

Simon looks at David as they reach the alley. He shakes his head and glances at the trash-covered narrow walkway.

"No—from what Colin said this homeless guy was like seventy. There's no way he could overpower a high school student. He could barely walk—I think he was a soldier."

"Vietnam?"

Simon nods.

"I assume."

They step out of the patrol car and walk over to where Colin Baxter is standing. Several feet away Robert Widdemer is checking the body. He looks back at Colin every few seconds.

"Did the victim have an ID?"

Colin nods.

"Hailey Jackson."

Simon and David react.

"Oh my God—how did something like this happen to someone like her? She's a straight A student at Ocean Landing High. What was she doing out here—at this time of night?"

Colin points to a box lying on the street.

"She stopped by Randy's Bakery to pick up a cake she'd ordered earlier for her mother's upcoming birthday."

David glances at the bakery a few yards away.

"You got all that info already?"

Colin looks at David curiously and sighs.

"You seem surprised?"

David seems embarrassed and turns away. He shakes his head several times and gestures toward the alley again.

"Where's the homeless guy?"

Colin faces Simon briefly and points to an old man sitting on a curb about twenty feet away. Simon and David walk over to where he's sitting. He turns to face them as they approach.

## 5

Carol Malinger notices the door to Jesse's room is open and walks by. The volume on his television is loud. She stops.

"Jesse? Don't you think it's a bit loud? This house isn't supposed to be a disco. The neighbors will royally complain."

As she faces her son, Jesse Malinger rolls his eyes and reaches out to turn the volume lower. On the screen reruns of *Simon & Simon* is playing which causes Carol to smile broadly.

"Oh, that brings back memories—I had the maddest crush on **Jameson Parker**—he was something special back then."

Jesse rolls his eyes again.

"I don't want to hear that story again."

Carol looks at her son oddly.

"I wasn't much different than you are now."

Jesse stands up.

"I never said you weren't. But we both know you'll start talking about going out on dates with cute guys in your school and then you'll tell me how cool it was—gross—yuk OK."

Carol waves her hand.

"Wait until you're my age."

Jesse turns away.

"Oh-oh—here it comes—a lecture."

"Like I said, one day you'll be my age and then your kids will act like you're not cool—and you'll remember today."

Jesse watches Carol as she leaves the room. He sighs loudly and turns to look at the television again. He smirks.

"I'd shoot myself first."

He leans back on the bed.

"I can't even imagine being old enough to have kids of my own—I can never see myself diapering a baby—oh gross."

He makes a slashing gesture with his hand.

## The Next Day

### 6

"We've got to catch this guy before he strikes again."

David looks up from his desk and nods.

"I'd love to—love to stop him cold in his tracks."

He sighs loudly.

"How are the Jacksons doing?"

Simon walks over to the front door and stops suddenly.

"Terrible—I didn't know what to say last night. It was one of the hardest things I've ever had to do. They were not prepared for something like this happening. Who can ever be?"

He runs his fingers through his hair.

"This freak needs to be stopped—I'm thinking of bringing in the FBI despite knowing it'll blow this thing sky high."

David sits up.

"I have a friend that works for the FBI."

Simon hesitates and shrugs.

"Give them a ring."

David nods.

## 7
## Boston

"I thought I made it clear you were on vacation for a week Latimer? Did you not understand a direct command?"

Andrew Latimer turns around to face Jeremy Winterfield with a huge smile on his face. He walks over to Jeremy. He looks at the folder in his hand briefly and then gives it to Jeremy.

"Relax—I just stopped by to give you this file that you requested last week. I took it home with me by accident."

Jeremy takes the folder and looks at Andrew.

"How is your mother?"

Andrew grins.

"She is enjoying every minute of being here in Boston."

Jeremy seems pleased.

"Make sure before she heads back to the West Coast you bring her by so I can meet her. I'm insisting on it by the way."

Andrew nods.

"No problem."

He turns to leave and stops.

"Thanks again. I really appreciate it."

Jeremy nods and points to the door. He grins.

"Don't keep your mother waiting."

"I'll see you in a few days."

Jeremy points to the door once more.

"I'm going, I'm going."

Andrew leaves seconds later. As the door closes Jeremy turns to look at the office and at the folder in his hand.

"Nothing is more important than family."

Jeremy seems upset as he walks back into his office.

**8**

"I have to tell him about Rebecca. He'll know what to do."

Melissa Kipling walks toward the small house adjacent to the church and stops. She sighs loudly, unsure about her decision. Inside the small house Father William pushes April Estes up against the wall and enters her seconds later. She moans loudly as he plows her with reckless abandon. He laughs as her moans become louder with each deep thrust. She cries out several times amid his loud laughter. Outside the tiny house Melissa seems upset as she realizes what's happening. She reacts in shock as she peeks through a slit in the curtain covering the window.

"Oh my God—I'm not the only one."

She turns away.

"But he said he was only doing what was needed to help me conceive a child—oh my God—this can't be happening."

She hastily runs toward her car almost stumbling as she fights back tears. She stops and fumbles with her keys.

**9**

Carter Benning watches as the enhanced photo slowly emerges on the computer screen. He reacts in shock and glances at Jill sitting at her desk typing away on her computer.

"Come look at this for a minute."

Seconds later Jill stands behind Carter looking at the photo. She seems confused as Carter leans back in his chair.

"Who does this look like?"

Jill shrugs and gestures with her hand.

"I have no idea Carter—really hot guy no doubt."

Carter rolls his eyes.

"Look closely—does he look familiar?"

Jill looks at Carter oddly and then glances at the photo on the computer screen again. She shrugs and sighs loudly.

"Is this guy supposed to be someone here in town—some old dude that lives at a retirement home or something?"

Carter gestures with his hand.

"The picture isn't that old—might be about five or ten years old—it was sent to me—photo was a mess originally but I had it digitally enhanced by a friend of mine in San Diego."

He points to the photo again.

"Doesn't it look like Father William?"

Jill seems confused as she glances at the photo again.

"Are you talking about the priest of that little church named after Saint **Kateri Tekakwitha** at the corner of Swanson Street? He isn't the man in the photograph. He can't be."

Carter stands up.

"Can't he?"

He walks to the door. As he leaves, Jill quickly grabs her purse and runs after Carter. She locks the door behind her.

**10**

Larisa smiles as she watches Laura Stryker and her brother sitting together in a small pavilion. Enrique Lopez seems pleased as Laura reaches out to touch his hand. Larisa strains to hear what they're talking about as her mother enters the kitchen and notices her daughter looking out the window. Marta Lopez shrugs and walks toward where Larisa is standing. She sighs.

"I'm sure you can hear much better if you went outside."

Larisa turns around and seems embarrassed.

"I was just trying—I was hoping."

Marta rolls her eyes knowingly and sighs.

"Your brother doesn't need help finding a girlfriend."

Larisa looks out the window again.

"It's just that Enrique has been so lonely since he broke up with Elizabeth Frye last week. He said she wanted to spend time alone—said she claimed they had no chemistry together."

Marta glances at Enrique and Laura.

"What about you? Where's your boyfriend."

Larisa seems hurt.

"How about you find yourself a boyfriend first before you worry about your brother's love life—I hope I'm making myself clear on this issue. Leave your brother and Laura alone."

Larisa nods.

"I see your point."

They walk out of the kitchen.

**11**

Alan Wong and Todd Zimmer sit on several huge boulders overlooking the ocean. Alan looks at the waves crashing and then at Todd who seems lost in thought. Alan sighs loudly.

"It just doesn't seem real yet."

Todd turns to look at Alan and shrugs.

"I saw her yesterday afternoon."

Alan picks up a small rock and tosses it into the ocean.

"She was fine—laughing and teasing me about my ripped jeans—said I reminded her of those boy band members from the 1990s when no one knew how to be fashionable. It was funny."

He sighs loudly again.

"I'm gonna miss hearing her laugh."

Todd turns to look at Alan again.

"She just can't be dead."

He stands up.

"I think I'm gonna be sick."

Alan shrugs and turns to look at the ocean again.

"Whoever did this deserves the electric chair. I'd gladly flip the switch and fry the bastard—would laugh when I did it."

Todd nods and faces the ocean.

"Her parents are a royal mess—and Serena—she won't even admit it—they're all in denial over what happened."

Alan stands up.

"If this happened to my sister I have no idea how I'd react when I found out—I'd probably be ready for a padded room."

He seems pensive as he sighs loudly.

"Life sucks."

They look at each other.

## 12

"This guy is Father William."

Carter shakes his head as he turns to face Colin.

"If he's not, he certainly could pass as a twin."

Colin leans back in his chair as he glances at Jill standing a few feet away from Carter. She stares back at him coldly.

"Did he convince you of this ridiculous fantasy?"

Jill looks at Carter and then back at Colin.

"I admit it seems like something you'd see on one of those old soap operas like *Edge of Night* or *Search for Tomorrow*. But it has a ring of reality to it if you think in terms of hiding in plain sight right under the noses of everyone in Ocean Landing."

She glances at David sitting at his desk.

"Killers hide in plain sight every day. Some are better at it than others—but it happens. Besides, what do we really know about Father William and his past before he moved here?"

Colin shoots Carter a cold look.

"We just can't go up to Father William and accuse him of being a serial killer—he could sue this town for millions."

Carter rolls his eyes.

"In the meantime we just let him run amok raping and killing—and you wonder why people think cops are lazy—just collecting a paycheck and stuffing their faces with pastries."

Colin seems irritated and glares at Carter.

"I've had enough of you today—get the hell out of my office and don't come back—unless you want to be arrested."

Carter smirks.

"I see I've struck a nerve."

He turns to look at Jill.

"Remind me to file a complaint with the mayor."

Jill nods and watches as Carter focuses his attention for a few seconds on Colin. He stands and walks to the door as Colin watches. Jill follows but stops and faces Colin once more.

"I really hope for your sake Carter is wrong about Father William—it would be a shame if he turns out to be right and you sat on this situation for a few more days while more bodies turn up all over Ocean Landing—think of how *that* would look."

She follows Carter out the door.

## 13

Melissa sits in her car with tears streaming down her face as she seems unsure of what to do next. A few minutes later she watches as April walks to her car parked at the other end of the parking lot. Melissa crouches down behind the steering wheel until April drives away. As the car disappears down the street Melissa glances at the small house again. She begins to cry softly as she wipes tears away from her eyes. She clenches her fist and glances at the box sticking out from under the passenger seat in her car. She sighs loudly and grabs the box. She looks at it for a few seconds and then opens it. With tear-filled eyes she looks at the gun lying on a small pillow. Melissa gingerly picks it up.

"He deserves to die for using me."

She sighs loudly again.

"God forgive me."

She puts the gun into one of the pockets of her jacket and gets out of the car. She slowly walks toward the front door of the small house and stops briefly. She looks around nervously.

"There is just no other way."

She knocks on the door. Seconds later Father William opens the door and looks at her curiously. She shrugs.

"I've got to talk to you."

He seems irritated and nods.

"This isn't a good time—I'm expecting someone."

Melissa rolls her eyes.

"I'll just bet."

Suddenly she pulls out the gun from one of the pockets of her jacket and points it at him. He seems stunned by the curious turn of events. He looks at her blankly. She looks around.

"Get inside this minute Father William—or I swear I'll shoot you dead right here and now—payback for what you've been doing to me for months now—and to April Estes."

Father William nervously looks out at the parking lot.

"You'll never get away with this Melissa."

Melissa waves the gun around.

"Maybe I will and maybe I won't—but either way you won't know since you'll be dead—and burning in hell."

Father William takes a step backwards as Melissa enters the small house and shuts the door. Without warning as she shuts the front door he grabs her and they struggle for the gun in her trembling hand. He tries to wrestle it away from her but is unable to as she bites his hand until he lets go. A few more seconds tick by as they both try to control the gun. He finally manages to force her under him and begins to twist her neck backwards. He grins broadly as he sees the terrified look on her face. He laughs.

"That's right bitch—the shoe is on the other foot now."

He continues to twist her neck.

"I've done things—bad things—plenty."

He laughs loudly.

"You're not the first and you certainly won't be the last bitch I kill. You women are the scourge of society—evil."

He grins as he watches her struggle.

"Just a little bit more and then it'll be over."

She fights back when the pain in her neck intensifies as his strength overwhelms her. Melissa feels her fingers still on the gun and brings it up against his stomach. She moves it around until it is directly over Father William's heart. She tries to catch her breath as she hears cracking sounds. She presses the trigger.

## 14

Marla Rodgers screams as she stares at the bodies lying on the floor side by side. Blood covers Father William's body from a gunshot wound in the middle of his chest. His eyes are wide open as if he's looking at something—but he sees nothing. She glances at Melissa Kipling's body and notices that her neck seems to be at an odd angle. Marla pulls out her cell phone and begins dialing. Her voice cracks as she screams into the phone.

## 15
## Two Hours Later

Colin watches as Robert Widdemer pushes the bodies into the back of a coroner's van. He notices Carter and Jill looking at him scornfully. He turns around and sees David standing several feet away in shock. Not far away is a small gathering of curious onlookers. Colin slowly walks over to Marla. She wipes away tears from her eyes as he approaches. He wrings his hands.

"I need to ask you some questions."

Marla seems confused.

"I know this is hard but it can't wait."

He turns around again to look at Carter and Jill.

## 16

Marta gasps as she watches the photos of Father William and Melissa Kipling flash across the screen as the story unfolds in the local news. She seems in shock as she watches Jill describe in detail what seems to have happened at the home of Father William. She sees Marla talking to Jill and reacts again as the tragic truth seems to be too much to bear. She turns around to see Larisa standing in the doorway. Marta appears confused.

"Mother—what's wrong? What happened?"

Marta seems in shock. Larisa takes a step forward.

"Father William is dead."

Larisa reacts.

"What?"

Marta turns to look at the television again.

"He was shot—by Melissa Kipling."

Larisa looks at her mother for several seconds unsure if she heard correctly and then faces the television. She sighs.

**17**

As the news flash across the screen Cyril Spalding reacts in shock as Greg Williams sitting next to him at a dimly lighted bar sees his expression and looks at the screen. He shrugs.

"Everyone in town knew she was stepping out on David."

Cyril makes a lewd gesture with his finger.

**18**

Men dressed in FBI jackets led by Maxwell Pendergraft scour the small house—leaving nothing untouched as they search under every piece of furniture and appliance for clues. From a distance Colin and Simon look at the events unfolding as Jill continues to talk to several witnesses. Carter walks up to Colin and glares at him for several minutes without saying a word. His eyes clearly tell the story. Curious onlookers continue to stand at a distance talking to each other as daylight fades away.

## About the Series Creator

Gary Brin was born in 1965 and has lived in the United States Virgin Islands, Hawaii and California. He has edited numerous original literary works over the years—both new and revised. In 2019 he established Standish Press to bring forth interesting fictional and historical material usually ignored by mainstream publishers because of specific views or content. In addition to publishing books, he also created the Nancy Hanks Lincoln Public Library (named after the mother of Abraham Lincoln) in 2014 to make available hard-to-find books to a worldwide audience.

# Production Notes

Written by Wesley Adams and Daphne McGee
Manuscript edited by Gary Brin
Cover photograph from Wikimedia Commons
Front cover design and interior book layout by Gary Brin
Cover layout by Victoria Valentine
Additional help provided by Carlton J. Young
Series created by Gary Brin

# Character List

Marlene Alderson
Alison Allington
Ben Allington
Christopher Allington
Jacob Allington
Simon Andrews
Nancy Baker
Colin Baxter
Carter Benning
Chelsea Bogard
Ward Brady
Andrea Byron
Lana Collins
Jill Edmondson
April Estes
Carl Estes
Father William
Kyle Garland
Gail Hernandez
Tyler Hernandez
Hailey Jackson
Serena Jackson
Sandra King
David Kipling
Melissa Kipling
Kevin Kulkovich
Andrew Latimer
Anton Levitov
Enrique Lopez
Larisa Lopez
Marta Lopez
Natalie MacDonald
Warren MacDonald
Carol Malinger
Jesse Malinger
Scott Malone
Julia Mancini
Rebecca Martin
Sabrina McCord
Corrine Medway
Maureen O'Bannon
Roland Parker
Maxwell Pendergraft
Caroline Peyser
Cynthia Rodgers
Marla Rodgers
Cyril Spalding
Laura Stryker
Brooke Tennyson
Astrid Thomas
Dexter Thomas
Nina Thurston
Grant Viego
Todd Whitney
Robert Widdemer
Daniel Williams
Greg Williams
Jeremy Winterfield
Alan Wong
Louise Wong
Carrie Woods
Jackie Woods
Jason Wyatt
Celine Yarmouth
Todd Zimmer

**Real People Mentioned**

Robin Cook
James Dean
Dominique Dunne
Jean Harlow
William Wymark Jacobs
Heather O'Rourke
Jameson Parker
Kateri Tekakwitha
Lana Turner

For free public domain books please visit
www.nancyhankslincolnpubliclibrary.org

Next in the Series
Book 6
# Games People Play

Standish Press

**BOOK 5 OF THE SOAP OPERA INSPIRED STORY COLLECTION SERIES**

*A secluded scenic seaside village located on the California coast north of Santa Barbara appears to be a perfect haven for several people dealing with tragic events from their past. But not everything is what it seems as colorful townspeople deal with personal scandals and misfortunes while a serial killer hides among them in plain sight.*

The *Soap Opera Inspired Story Collection* is written in a script-like format instead of the usual way done in books such as *Gone with the Wind*. Characters in this series will move from one book to another for unresolved plotlines to conclude in a realistic way. The scripted format can best be described as binge-watching every season of classic television shows like *Knots Landing* within a week or two except the story is played out on a printed page and not filmed for broadcast.

**About the Series Creator**

Gary Brin was born in 1965 and has lived in the United States Virgin Islands, Hawaii and California. He has edited numerous original literary works over the years—both new and revised. In 2019 he established Standish Press to bring forth interesting fictional and historical material usually ignored by mainstream publishers because of specific views or content. In addition to publishing books, he also created the Nancy Hanks Lincoln Public Library (named after the mother of Abraham Lincoln) in 2014 to make available hard-to-find books to a worldwide audience.

ISBN 978-1-945510-04-5
90000
9 781945 510045